

INSIDE TODAY

U.S. NEWS

APPOMATTOX SHOOTING



This image provided by the Virginia State Police shows shooting suspect Christopher Speight, 39, who is being sought in connections with the fatal shootings of eight people in Appomattox, Va., Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2010.

Read more on Page A5

SPORTS NEWS

LABOR TALKS



DeMaurice Smith, Executive Director, NFL Players' Association speaks during a House Judiciary Committee hearing entitled "Legal Issues Relating to Football Head Injuries, Part II" in Detroit, Monday, Jan. 4, 2010.

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Haitians flee in fear as big aftershock hits

MICHELLE FAUL
PAUL HAVEN

Associated Press Writers

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — A powerful aftershock sent Haitians screaming into the streets on Wednesday, collapsing buildings, cracking roads and adding to the trauma of a nation stunned by an apocalyptic quake eight days ago.

The magnitude-5.9 jolt matched the strongest of the aftershocks that have followed the huge quake of Jan. 12 that devastated Haiti's capital.

The new temblor collapsed seven buildings in Petit-Goave,

the seaside town closest to the epicenter, according to Mike Morton of the U.N. Disaster Assessment and Coordination agency, but there were no reports of people crushed or trapped, perhaps because the earlier quake frightened most people into sleeping outside.

Wails of terror erupted in Port-au-Prince, where the aftershock briefly interrupted rescue efforts amid the broken concrete of collapsed buildings, and prompted doctors and patients to flee the University Hospital.

Hundreds of thousands of Haitians remain homeless,

hungry and in mourning — most still waiting for the benefits of a nearly \$1 billion global aid campaign that has brought hundreds of doctors and thousands of troops to the impoverished Caribbean nation.

U.N. humanitarian chief John Holmes told reporters in New York that 2 million Haitians will probably need food aid for six months, while the World Food Program and other donors so far have reached only about half a million "with reasonable quantities of food" so far.

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Earthquake survivor Hotteline Lozama, 26, smiles as she was pulled out from the rubble by French aid group Secouristes Sans Frontieres in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2010. International working groups are racing against the clock across Haiti to find more victims still possibly buried alive in the rubbles.

Associated Press



This Jan. 20, 2009 file pool photo shows Barack Obama being sworn in by Chief Justice John Roberts as the 44th President of the United States of America on the West Front of the Capitol in Washington. The polls have shown a wide decline in Americans' approval of Obama since he first took office last Jan. 20. In fact, according to the latest Gallup Poll, he entered his second year with one of the lowest approval ratings of any president in the last half-century.

Associated Press

AP-GfK Poll: Obama's first year gets mixed verdict

Read Page 3

Democrats scramble after Senate race upset



U.S. Sen.-elect Scott Brown, R-Mass., addresses reporters during a news conference at the Park Plaza hotel in Boston, Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2010.

Associated Press

STEVEN R. HURST,
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — On the first anniversary of his inauguration, President Barack Obama was scrambling Wednesday to salvage health care reform and other key measures on his agenda after Democrats lost a critical race for the Senate seat of liberal stalwart Edward M. Kennedy.

Continued on Page 4



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White House gate crashers invoke 5th ammendment



Tareq Salahi, left, and Michael Salahi, right, listen to their attorney Stephen Best, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2010, while testifying before the House Homeland Security Committee.

LARRY MARGASAK
Associated Press Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) — White House gate crashers Tareq and Michael Salahi invoked their U.S.

constitutional right against self-incrimination Wednesday, refusing to answer a House committee's questions about their uninvited appearance at a state dinner for Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. The jet-setting couple repeatedly said they were remaining silent on advice of their lawyer, but that did not prevent members

of the Homeland Security Committee from peppering them with questions about how they got through Secret Service checkpoints on Nov. 24.

Tareq Salahi read an opening statement in which he offered to have the couple's lawyers provide information about their appearance at the dinner. Committee Chairman Bennie Thompson, a Democrat, rejected the offer.

A U.S. jury is investigating the Salahis to learn how they got past the Secret Service, which protects the president, without invitations and shook hands with President Barack Obama.

The Salahis' attorney, Stephen Best, said in an interview prior to the hearing that the couple believed they were invited to an arrival ceremony for the prime minister and the White House receiving line for the dinner.

The couple was auditioning

for a reality television show. The White House incident led to an apology from the Secret Service, and three of its officers were placed on administrative leave.

Members of the committee repeatedly told the Salahis that the safety of the president was not a joke, although some of the questions from frustrated committee members were less than serious..

The couple — she dressed in a white jacket and skirt, he in a dark suit — said they would be willing to return and testify after the criminal investigation is finished.

The couple could be charged under statutes that prohibit making false statements to federal agencies or using false pretenses to enter federal property.

Best said his clients "maintain their absolute innocence and have not committed any criminal wrongdoing whatsoever. They will contest any charges." □



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AP-GfK Poll:

Obama's first year gets mixed verdict

ANN SANNER
CALVIN WOODWARD
Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nearly nine in 10 people in the U.S. like President Barack Obama personally, but he earns decidedly mixed reviews in a new Associated Press-GfK poll judging his first year in office.

Obama's approval ratings have been becalmed for months, 56 percent in the survey out Wednesday. By a modest margin, people still think the country is moving in the wrong direction, as they have since summer.

The Republican upset in a U.S. Senate race Tuesday in Massachusetts demonstrated just how perilous the political landscape has become for Obama and his party. Democrats hope to hold onto their majority in both chambers of Congress in November elections.

But two years after Obama famously told his Democratic primary opponent Hillary Rodham Clinton, "You're likable enough, Hillary," that appraisal seems to have settled firmly on him.

Even three-quarters of Republicans say they personally like Obama.

But such personal good will came to little in Massachusetts, where Republican Scott Brown defeated Democrat Martha Coakley in a race seen as a referendum on Obama's first year in office as well as his top domestic priority, an overhaul of the U.S. health care system.

A president's likability can be a precious political commodity, but it proved to be one without coattails in the Senate contest. To be sure, the excitement of Obama's inauguration and the inflated expectations of that

time are gone. His approval ratings have been in the 50s since July, sliding from 74 percent a year ago.

Hopes that he would become an extraordinary president have been tempered during a year of economic calamity, an escalating war in Afghanistan and sharp elbows in the health care debate, the poll suggests. Fading, too, though, are worries that Obama is in over his head.

Fewer Americans register a concern that the former one-term senator is doing too much too fast in the White House or lacks the gravitas to take on big problems. Even some people who don't like his policies credit him with a capable approach.

"I think he's on top of things," said Ken Jensen, 66, a retired economist in Woods Cross, Utah, and a Republican. "I admire him for his ability to put on a different necktie and approach a different problem in a competent way."

An opponent of Obama's plans for health care and much else, Jensen said the president is doing right by Haiti and, in responding to the attempted bombing of a Detroit-bound airliner, "got it right" after a bumbling start on the first major domestic terrorism challenge of his presidency. With Obama's out-of-the-gate plans to reinvent the health insurance system, restore economic stability and take big steps in energy, the environment and more, Americans appeared nervous about an upended status quo even as they were drawn to the promises of change.

In the summer, nearly half of Americans thought Obama was trying to do too many things too quickly. That's

starting to turn around, according to the poll. An increasing number of people — especially Democrats — want him to pick up the pace even if not all are exactly sure what he should do.

"He stood for change, change, change," said Shira Callaway, 32, a self-employed marketer in McDonough, Georgia, who voted for Obama in 2008. "I think that something needs to hurry up and be done. I don't know what it should be, but something needs to be done a little bit faster."

Two-thirds in the poll agreed with the phrases "he understands the problems of ordinary Americans," "he will keep America safe," "he cares about people like you" and "he is a strong leader," a modest decline from three-quarters or more before his inauguration.

Most of that decline comes from sinking appraisals by Republicans, while his leadership ratings among independents have gone down much less and remain overwhelmingly favorable



among Democrats. Before the inauguration, even a majority of Republicans said those phrases described Obama at least somewhat well.

With Democratic majorities at stake again, the new AP-GfK poll found that 49 percent would like to see the party keep control of Congress in November while 37 percent want Republicans to take over.

Also in the poll:

—42 percent rated Obama as an above average or outstanding president. A year ago, 65 percent expected him to be.

—The economy continues to be the dominant concern, and Obama's 47 percent approval rating on handling the

economy has hardly budged for months.

—48 percent trust Democrats more to handle health care; 38 percent trust Republicans. But respondents were split 42-42 percent on the package being considered by Congress. That was a slight increase in support for the plans.

—49 percent trust Democrats more on the economy; 40 percent trust Republicans.

—46 percent say the Obama administration has shown higher ethical standards than the Bush administration, while 30 percent say they are about the same.

—54 percent approve of his handling of terrorism, one of his strongest ratings on issues



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In this Jan. 19, 2010 file photo, Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick, left, listens to Massachusetts Attorney General Martha Coakley concede after losing a special election in Boston, Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2010, held to fill the U.S. Senate seat left vacant by the death of Sen. Edward Kennedy. With Brown's win, Patrick faces emboldened Republican opposition in his campaign for re-election in November.

Associated Press

DEMOCRAT SCRAMBLE

Continued from Front Page

Republican Scott Brown's win in the special election Tuesday for the Massachusetts seat was a stunning and bitter setback for Obama whose patient shepherding of health care reform was nearing success in Congress.

That is no longer assured because the Democrat's 60-seat super-majority — needed to overcome Republican stalling tactics — vanished with the drubbing of Democratic state Attorney General Martha Coakley.

Brown, a state senator with a low profile, was initially seen as a sure loser. But he became the first Republican elected to the U.S. Senate from Massachusetts since 1972. The state's registered Democrats outnumber Republicans by 3-to-1.

Brown built his come-from-behind victory over Coakley by, among other pledges, promising to vote against the Democrats' sweeping bid to reform the American health care system and focusing on the bad economy and Obama's decision to give a key Sept. 11 terrorist a hearing in the federal courts.

The five-percentage-point win over Coakley, who earlier had led by double digits but was seen to have run a weak campaign, was widely viewed as reflecting a wave of voter

dissatisfaction over Obama's agenda and the nation's dismal economic condition.

Sen. John McCain, Obama's Republican presidential rival in 2008, likened Brown's win to the U.S. Revolutionary War's "shot heard 'round the world" in Concord, Massachusetts, in April 1775. McCain said the message was clear: "No more business as usual in Washington. Stop this unsavory sausage-making process."

White House officials acknowledged that one of the lessons learned was the intensity of voter anger, but they said it wasn't so much with Obama as with Washington's failures in general and with the moribund economy.

"There are messages here. We hear those messages," senior Obama adviser David Axelrod said in an interview with cable news channel MSNBC. "There is a general sense of discontent about the economy. And there is a general sense of discontent about this town. That's why we were elected."

Added press secretary Robert Gibbs: "There's a tremendous amount of anger and frustration about where people are economically ... I think that's what's ultimately going to define the coming political battles."

They downplayed the notion that the vote was an indictment of health care reform. But Axelrod said that officials will "take into account" what voters said. He added, "It's not an option simply to walk away from a problem that's only going to get worse."

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell said Obama has a new opportunity for bipartisanship.

"The president ought to take this as a message to recalibrate how he wants to govern and if he wants to govern from the middle we'll meet him there," he said.

Brown said he was heading to Washington on Thursday, although it was unclear how quickly he would be seated. Some Democrats said there should be no further action on health care reform until that happens. Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid said Brown would be sworn in immediately.

Brown's addition to the upper chamber gives Republicans the votes to successfully stall health care or any other major issue from reaching the floor. Both houses have passed a version of the health care reform program, but are now in the process of negotiating major differences into a single bill that would need to pass in both the Senate and House before Obama could sign it into law.

Polls show that the health care overhaul has the support of a diminishing minority of voters, a fact that — along with Brown's upset win — could produce even more skittishness among moderate Democrats as they face an anti-incumbent mood ahead of congressional elections in November.

Even so, Brown said he did not see his victory as a referendum on Obama's first year in office. "It's bigger than that," he said. "I just focused on what I did, which is to talk about the issues — terror, taxes and the health care plan."

But that may understate the disaffection with the Obama agenda among voters caught in one of the deepest economic downturns since the 1930s Great Depression.

And it turned politics in Massachusetts upside down. Just 14 months ago, Obama carried the state by 26 percentage points over Republican John McCain, and Brown will assume a seat Kennedy, who died of brain cancer in August, and his brother, President John F. Kennedy, held for over 50 years. □

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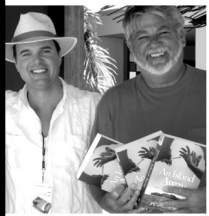
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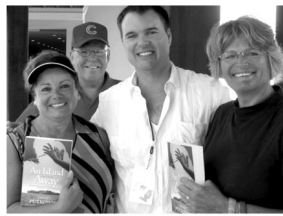
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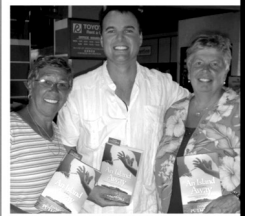
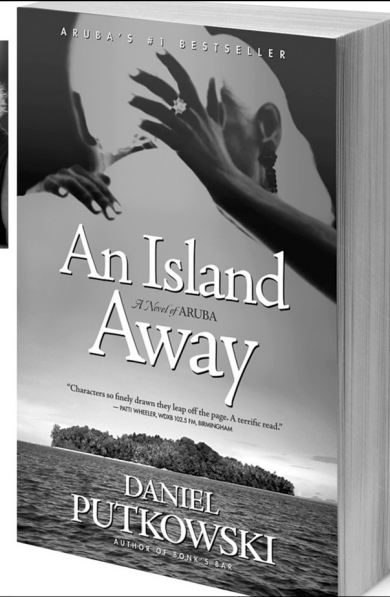
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Explosives found at home of slaying suspect

DENA POTTER, Associated Press Writer
APPOMATTOX, Virginia (AP) — Bomb technicians discovered a "multitude" of explosives Wednesday at a home where eight people were found dead, police said. The killings launched an all-night manhunt that ended when the suspect surrendered at sunrise.

Christopher Bryan Speight, 39, was wearing a bulletproof vest but had no weapons when he turned himself in to police around 7:10 a.m., Sheriff O. Wilson Staples said. Authorities say he fired at a state police helicopter, rupturing its gas tank and forcing it to land, but no one on board was hurt. Police still have not revealed a motive or identified the victims.

Staples said Wednesday that Speight lived in the home where three bodies were found inside and four outside. The eighth victim, who was found barely alive on the road just outside the house, died at the hospital. Police were concerned that Speight might have rigged the house with explosives, and state police Sgt. Thomas Molnar said bomb-sniffing dogs found a "multitude of devices inside and outside the house." Bomb technicians were exploding the devices, a process expected to continue into Thursday.

Authorities have not said

how Speight was related to the victims. Police spokeswoman Corrine Geller also would not say what Speight said when he turned himself in.

He was wearing camouflage pants and a black sweat shirt when officers put him in a sheriff's car at state police headquarters later Wednesday. He was being taken to Appomattox Regional Jail and had not been charged.

Police did not identify the dead, but rumors flew around the county, which has about 14,500 residents. The drama that started around noon Tuesday paralyzed the rural area about 100 miles (160 kilometers) southwest of Richmond that is best known as the place where Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered his army in 1865 to Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant to end the U.S. Civil War.

Police with dogs and heat-sensing equipment swarmed the woods and warned residents to stay indoors with doors locked.

"This is a horrific tragedy," Geller said at a news conference Wednesday. "It's definitely one of the worst mass killings in Virginia, probably since the Virginia Tech tragedy in April of 2007."

Appomattox County court records show a concealed weapons permit was issued

to a Christopher Bryan Speight three times between 1999 and last year. The issue dates match the five-year renewal period for concealed handgun permits under Virginia law.

Authorities earlier said Speight had a high-powered rifle and Staples said investigators believe he had weapons training based on the weapons found in his home, though they have no information to indicate he was in the military.

Speight's uncle, Jack Giglio of Tampa, Florida, said his nephew was a deer hunter, though as far as he knew Speight did not have any specialized weapons training.

"We're shocked, of course," Giglio said. "I'm not aware of any problems with him. It's kind of out of the blue. We're still trying to pick up facts too."

Giglio said he hadn't seen Speight since 2006, when they both attended the funeral for Speight's mother, who died of brain cancer.

State police backed by other agencies spent Wednesday night enforcing a perimeter around a swath of woods that was 2 miles long and 1,000 yards wide.

The house where most of the bodies were found is located on a gravel road, with woods and farm fields surrounding it.

The drama began around



Murder suspect Christopher Speight, center, is led out of State Police headquarters in Appomattox, Va., Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2010. Speight is accused of killing eight people and leading police on an overnight manhunt.

Associated Press

noon Tuesday when the emergency call heard deputies responded to an more gunshots and soon emergency call about an the area was filled with injured man along the side law enforcement from all of a narrow country road. over, with more than 100 A deputy who answered responding. □

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AFTERSHOCK HITS**Continued from Front Page**

The U.S. Navy's floating hospital, USNS Comfort, dropped anchor in view of the capital on Wednesday with about 550 medical staff, joining teams from about 30 other countries trying to treat the injured. About 250,000 people were hurt in the quake and aid groups say many people have died for lack of medical care or adequate equipment.

And the Pentagon announced that 2,000 more U.S. Marines would be sent to Haiti, adding 11,500 U.S. military personnel already on the ground or on ships offshore — a number expected to reach 16,000 by week's end.

At a golf course where U.S. troops have been trying to help 25,000 people living under sheets of plastic and old cloth, soldiers and quake victims alike raced for open ground as the quake began.

A slow vibration intensified into side-to-side shaking that lasted about eight seconds. Some in Port-au-Prince said the far stronger Jan. 12 quake seemed to last for 30 seconds.

"It kind of felt like standing on a board on top of a ball," said Staff Sgt. Steven Payne. The 27-year-old from Jolo, West Virginia, who was part of the U.S. Army's aid mission.

At least one woman died of a heart attack, according to Eddy Thomas, a private undertaker who was wheeling her body along a street in Port-au-Prince: "She had a heart condition, and the new quake finished her."

The U.S. Geological Survey said the aftershock was centered about 35 miles west-southwest of Port-au-Prince and 6.2 miles below the surface.



People wash off in water spraying from a pipe that broke during a magnitude-6.1 aftershock in Port-au-Prince, Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2010. The most powerful aftershock yet struck Haiti on Wednesday, shaking more rubble from damaged buildings and sending people running into the streets eight days after the nation's capital was devastated by a quake.

It was a little further from the capital than last week's magnitude-7.0 quake, which killed an estimated 200,000 people and made as many as 2 million homeless, according to the European Union.

Wednesday's temblor matched the strongest of 49 aftershocks of magnitude-4.5 or greater that have followed the Jan. 12 quake and USGS geophysicist Bruce Pressgrave said nobody knows if a still-stronger aftershock is possible.

"Aftershocks sometimes die out very quickly," he said. "In other cases they can go on for weeks, or if we're really unlucky it could go on for months" as the earth adjusts to the new stresses caused by the initial quake.

The shaking ripped 8-inch cracks in a road west of the capital near Leogane, where

U.S. Marines were setting up a post to aid quake victims who are sleeping in streets, culverts and driveways, often under tree branches draped with sheets to guard against the sun.

The latest quake, combined with a light rain on Tuesday, has complicated rescue efforts, said Dr. Yi Ting Tsai, part of a Taiwanese crew digging for survivors near the ruined cathedral.

"The problem is the rain and the new quake this morning has made the debris more compact," he said.

International aid teams have saved 121 people from the rubble, an unprecedented number, according to aid organization. Dr. Jon Kim Andrus, deputy director for the Pan American

Health Organization, said that "countless more have been rescued by Haitians working with no equipment at all," he said.

A 69-year-old domestic worker, Ena Zizi, said she prayed constantly during her week under the rubble.

She had been at a meeting at the residence of Haiti's Roman Catholic archbishop when the Jan. 12 quake struck, trapping her in debris. On Tuesday, a Mexican disaster team pulled her to safety.

Zizi said after the quake, she spoke back and forth with a vicar who also was trapped. But he fell silent after a few days, and she spent the rest of the time praying and waiting.

"I talked only to my boss,

God," she said. "I didn't need any more humans."

Doctors who examined Zizi on Tuesday said she was dehydrated and had a dislocated hip and a broken leg.

Elsewhere in the capital, two women were pulled from a destroyed university building. And near midnight Tuesday, a smiling and singing 26-year-old Lozama Hotteline was carried to safety from a collapsed store in the Petionville neighborhood by the French aid group Rescuers Without Borders.

Yet the colossal efforts to help Haiti were proving inadequate because of the scale of the disaster. Expectations exceeded what money, will and military might have been able to achieve.

Governments have pledged nearly \$1 billion in aid, and thousands of tons of food and medical supplies have been shipped. But much remains trapped in warehouses, or diverted to the neighboring Dominican Republic. Port-au-Prince's nonfunctioning seaport and many impassable roads complicate efforts to get aid to the people.

Aid is still being turned back from the single-runway airport, where the U.S. military has been criticized by some of poorly prioritizing flights. The U.S. Air Force said it had raised the facility's daily capacity from 30 flights before the quake to 180. U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates said the military will send a port-clearing ship with cranes aboard to Port-au-Prince to remove debris that is preventing many larger aid ships from docking.

The U.N. was sending in reinforcements as well: The Security Council voted Tuesday to add 2,000 peacekeepers to the 7,000 already in Haiti, and 1,500 more police to the 2,100-strong international force.

Perhaps as important for many Haitians was the reopening of several money exchange houses on Wednesday and Haitian banks' announcement that they will reopen in rural provinces on Thursday, then in the capital on Saturday. That will help restore the flow of money from Haitians abroad, who send home \$1.9 billion a year.

And they may have something to spend the money on: Farmers are again trudging into the capital from hillside plots balancing packages of cauliflower, sweet potato, sugar cane and lettuce on their heads.

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A departure sign showing delayed flights at Dublin International Airport, Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2010. A four-hour strike by air traffic controllers went under way at Cork, Dublin and Shannon airports, disrupting the travel plans of up to 20,000 passengers. Behind the scenes efforts to avert Wednesday's strike failed to break the deadlock between the air traffic controllers' union, IMPACT, and their employer, the Irish Aviation Authority.

Associated Press

120 flights canceled as Irish controllers protest

SHAWN POGATCHNIK

Associated Press Writer

DUBLIN (AP) — More than 120 flights in and out of Ireland were canceled Wednesday when air traffic controllers staged a four-hour walkout in a bid for higher pay — a protest that elicited little support outside the trade-union movement.

Government and business leaders condemned the controllers' protest as selfish at a time when Ireland is battling record debts, cutting pay and slashing jobs. The government's minister for trade and commerce, Billy Kelleher, said the controllers' decision to shut down the runways at the nation's three main airports had ruined travel plans for 20,000 people and was "further undermining Ireland's economic viability and reputation."

The Irish Aviation Authority employs 300 controllers at Ireland's airports in Dublin, Cork and Shannon. In 2007 — as part of a national wage-pact deal that employers since have abandoned because of Ireland's

dive into recession — the authority promised the controllers a 6 percent raise that it now wants to delay until at least 2012.

The controllers' union, Impact, said its members reserved the right to call wider strikes unless the authority delivers the pay increase now and abandons its demand for controllers to begin helping fund their guaranteed pension plans. The union also seeks extra pay for controllers to use recently upgraded air-traffic-control technology.

Liam Kavanagh, the Irish Aviation Authority's head of human resources, said the controllers were being greedy and unreasonable.

Kavanagh said on average each controller received €160,000 (\$225,000) in salary and company-funded pension payments, worked 35-hour weeks with frequent half-hour breaks, and got 46 days' vacation and 137 rest days a year.

He said the Irish-based airlines, principally loss-making Aer Lingus

and cutthroat but profitable Ryanair, funded the authority's work in full.

"The airlines cannot afford to pay any increases in the current economic climate. The aviation industry is on its knees," he said.

Aer Lingus said it canceled 64 flights Wednesday, Ryanair 48, and small regional airline Aer Arann five. Scores of other flights were delayed for hours, with many midmorning flights rescheduled for the evening.

Aer Lingus — which has been cutting its own pay levels and staff in a bid to return to profit — said it supported the authority's stand against the controllers' demands. Ryanair lambasted the controllers as "overpaid and underworked," and called on grounded customers to phone and e-mail complaints to the Impact union headquarters.

The Irish Business and Employers Confederation, which represents 7,000 employers nationwide, said it was "outrageous that the public is being held to ransom in this way." □



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Netanyahu demands Israeli presence in West Bank



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu speaks during a meeting with the foreign press in Jerusalem, Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2010.

Associated Press

STEVEN GUTKIN

Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Wednesday that Israel must have a presence in the West Bank to stop rockets from being imported even after a peace agreement is achieved, the first time he has spelled out such a demand. He said the experience of rocket attacks from the Lebanese and Gaza borders

means Israel must be able to prevent such weapons from being brought into any future Palestinian entity in the West Bank.

“We cannot afford to have that across from the center of our country,” he told foreign reporters Wednesday in Jerusalem.

“In the case of a future settlement with the Palestinians, this will require an Israeli presence on the eastern side of a prospective

Palestinian state,” he said, without elaborating.

Until recent months, Netanyahu hesitated to refer to the concept of a Palestinian state and has not outlined how much, if any, of the West Bank he would be willing to give up.

“We are surrounded by an ever-growing arsenal of rockets placed in the Iranian-supported enclaves to the north and to the south,” he said, referring to Lebanon and Gaza.

Under the current situation, Israel is in overall control of the West Bank and its borders, though the Palestinian Authority patrols main population centers.

Netanyahu outlined the defensive systems Israel is developing to knock down incoming rockets, but he admitted that they are “prohibitively expensive.” He said that Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Gaza get their rockets from neighboring countries, and that must be stopped.

Palestinians want to create an independent state in the

West Bank, Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem with no Israeli presence, military or civilian.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has proposed that the Obama administration negotiate the final borders of a Palestinian state with Israel, a Palestinian official said Wednesday, as a U.S. envoy headed to the region for another attempt to restart Mideast peace talks.

Such a proxy arrangement could provide a way around the current deadlock over reviving Israeli-Palestinian talks, which broke off more than a year ago. Abbas says he won’t return to the table without a complete Israeli settlement freeze, something Netanyahu has refused to do.

As an alternative, U.S. officials could replace Palestinian negotiators in border talks with Israel, said an Abbas aide, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the content of internal meetings. The U.S. negotiators would be given clear parameters, the aide said.

Abbas made the proposal in recent meetings with Egyptian officials who passed the idea

along to Washington, the aide said. It was not clear how the Americans reacted.

Officials at the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem, which serves the West Bank, had no comment. Netanyahu did not refer to the proposal at his Wednesday news conference.

Abbas is expected to discuss his proposal with Obama’s Mideast envoy, George Mitchell, who was to arrive in Israel later Wednesday. Mitchell is to hold separate talks with Netanyahu and Abbas on Thursday and Friday.

At the news conference, Netanyahu also appealed for tough international sanctions against Iran. He said there is “wide acceptance” of Israel’s view that Iran poses a strategic threat because of its nuclear program.

“The question is, is there a willingness to act. We will soon find out,” he said.

Netanyahu did not refer to the possibility that Israel or others might attack Iran militarily. Iran has insisted that its nuclear program is peaceful, but Israel, the U.S. and others suspect that Iran is constructing nuclear weapons □

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Prostitutes in Greece demand brothel license

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Dozens of prostitutes, most using headscarves or hoods to hide their faces, demonstrated in central Athens Wednesday, demanding working licenses for brothels across Greece.

Prostitution is legal in Greece, and sex workers have personal permits to exercise their profession. But they can only do that by walking the streets, not using brothels. As a result, many end up working illegally and facing arrest because they operate out of brothels. “We are here to put an end to our hardship and degradation,” said Dimitra Kanellopoulou, president of Greece’s sex workers’ association, SEPE. “The situation is tragic, hypocritical and miserable.”

About 100 sex workers held a rally outside the Interior Ministry, chanting: “We will not back down until we are given justice.”

“We want to be able to work legally in brothels and not on the streets,” said 47-year-old Maria K., who has been working as a prostitute for more than 20 years. She would not give her surname. Kanellopoulou, the head of the union, said Interior Minister Yannis Ragoussis met briefly with union members and agreed to discuss their grievances, including cutting red tape and making it easier for prostitutes to obtain licenses. □



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Group: More than 200 dead in Nigeria violence

JON GAMBRELL,
Associated Press Writer

JOS, Nigeria (AP) — Charred bodies with scorched hands reaching skyward lay in the streets and a mosque with blackened minarets smoldered Wednesday after several days of fighting between Christians and Muslims killed more than 200 people.

Sectarian violence in this central region of Nigeria has left thousands dead over the past decade, and the latest outbreak that began Sunday came despite the government's efforts to quell religious extremism in the West African country.

Jos was mostly calm Wednesday, though many terrified civilians kept indoors while soldiers patrolled the streets. The city is situated in Nigeria's "middle belt," where dozens of ethnic groups mingle in a band of fertile and hotly contested land separating the Muslim north from the predominantly Christian south.

There are conflicting accounts about what unleashed the bloodshed. According to the state police commissioner, skirmishes began after Muslim youths set a Christian church ablaze, but Muslim leaders denied that. Other community leaders say it began with an

argument over the rebuilding of a Muslim home in a predominantly Christian neighborhood that had been destroyed in November 2008. Corinne Dufka, senior West Africa researcher at Human Rights Watch, said what caused the latest spark was beside the point. The deeper problem, she said, is the government's failure to address underlying conflict in the region.

After similar bouts of violence in the past, Nigerian authorities have "come up with analysis, but they don't respond properly with concrete measures and policies," Dufka said. "Tensions seethe, and months or years later you have another outbreak."

More than 13,500 Nigerians have died in sectarian violence in the last decade, and at least 2,500 people had been killed in Plateau state alone since 2001, according to Human Rights Watch. Dufka said no one has been held accountable, leading to a climate of impunity.

"It's not just the perpetrators who often murdered people in horrific ways who have not been held accountable, but also the political leaders and sometimes the religious leaders that foment violence, as well as the security forces who've used excessive force to respond to it."

In Jos, witnesses said rioters armed with knives, homemade firearms and stones had attacked passers-by and fought with security forces, leaving bodies in the street and stacked in mosques after fighting began Sunday.

Authorities imposed a 24-hour curfew, but on Wednesday people could be seen walking around the center of the city. When an army convoy passed, they stopped and raised their hands above their heads to show they were not a threat.

"We want the government to come and help us," said Abdullahi Ushman, who said he had seen rioters attacking people with firearms and bows and arrows.

Plateau State governor Jonah Jang said the violence was not provoked by a lack of opportunity in this rural farming community. He claimed many of the attackers were from Muslim-dominant northern Nigeria and from the nearby, predominantly Muslim nations of Niger and Chad.

"There are people masterminding this for their own selfish reasons," said Jang, who is Christian. The Minister of Police Affairs, Ibrahim Yakubu Lame, issued a statement Tuesday blaming the violence on "some highly



Nigerian troops seen as they provide security at Jos, Nigeria, Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2010. Charred bodies lay in the streets and mosques with blackened smoldering minarets are seen in the area Wednesday after several days of fighting between Christians and Muslims, with more than 200 people thought to be dead.

Associated Press

placed individuals in the society who were exploiting the ignorance and poverty of the people to cause mayhem in the name of religion."

The chief of Army staff, Lt. Gen. Abdulrahman Danbazau, confirmed accounts that some residents had been dragged out of their homes and shot by men dressed in what appeared to be army uniforms. He said five of the suspects arrested were dressed in khaki army-style uniforms and claimed to be police officers, though only one of the five men could provide police identification. Jos is not alone in being shaken

by religious violence. In July, an extremist group known as Boko Haram — translated as "Western education is sacrilege" — attacked police stations and other government buildings, starting days of violence that left more than 700 people dead in northern Nigeria. Another wave of violence started by infighting in another Islamic extremist group left at least 38 people dead in December.

Still, nearly all violence caused by extremist sects comes from intensely local politics or grievances — not any call for holy war against the West. □

Grammys will stage 3-D tribute to Michael Jackson

By NEKESA MUMBI MOODY,

AP Music Writer

NEW YORK — Last year, as the Grammys were approaching, the show's executive producer was in frequent talks with Michael Jackson to appear on the telecast to celebrate the 25th anniversary of "Thriller."

Ken Ehrlich, the Grammy telecast's co-executive producer, had presented several ideas for performers, including Justin Timberlake and Usher, all of which excited Jackson. But in the end, he declined the show's invitation.

"He just wasn't ready for it," Ehrlich said.

This year, Jackson will be a focal point of the show, with an unprecedented posthumous tribute. The Grammys will broadcast a 3-D clip the singer made for his hit "Earth Song," a video that was to be integral to his comeback concerts in London in July 2009 — shows that never happened because of his June 25 death in Los Angeles.

Usher, Celine Dion, Carrie Underwood, Jennifer Hudson and Smokey Robinson will perform alongside the clip, which Ehrlich says will be the first time an awards show will feature 3-D.

"Whenever we would do a show with (Jackson), the first thing he would say to me was, 'How can we do something that we (have) never done before?' And now we're doing something that hasn't been done before," said Ehrlich, who worked with Jackson for almost 30 years, in an interview Tuesday.

Ehrlich produced the televised memorial to Jackson last year. He was with the singer the night before he died — and that's when he first saw the 3-D clip of "Earth Song," a call to action about the destruction of nature and animals by man. "There are these incredible images of the beauties of

nature, and then they are seen through the eyes of a little girl, and that girl falls asleep and when she wakes up, she is witness to the destruction of nature," said Ehrlich. "It's all about questioning what our values are."

While a part of the clip was shown in the recent movie documentary "This Is It," Ehrlich says the Grammys will show the full piece in 3-D. When he saw it with Jackson that night, Ehrlich said the singer was moved to tears.

"It was pretty emotional for him," Ehrlich said. "Afterward he said to me that that song and that piece and that portion of the concert was as important to him than anything else in the show."

Ehrlich decided to use the five-minute 3-D clip at the Grammys to produce a show-stopper worthy of Jackson, who provided the awards show with some of its most memorable moments, including his then-historic eight Grammy wins in 1984.

"The promise is this is going to be pretty spectacular," he said.

Viewers can get free 3-D "Grammy" glasses from Target stores nationwide from Jan. 24 through Jan. 31, when the 52nd annual Grammy



FILE - In this March 17, 2005 file photo, pop star Michael Jackson arrives at the Santa Barbara County Courthouse in Santa Maria, Calif.

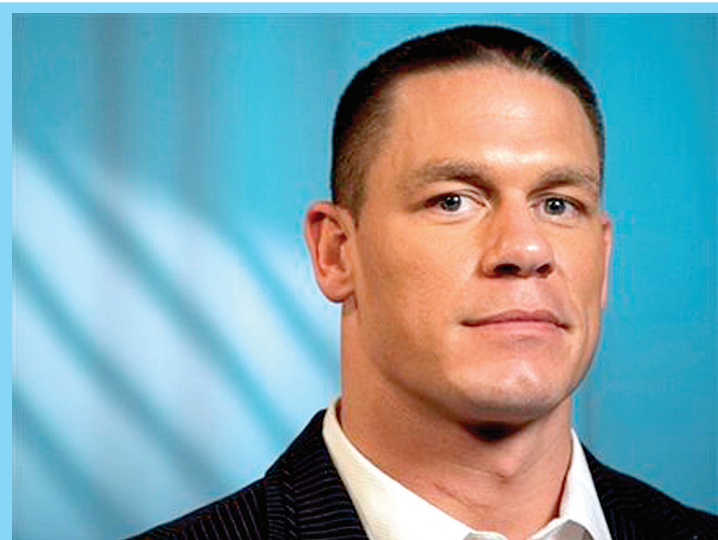
(AP Photo/Michael A. Mariant, file)

Awards will air live from the Staples Center in Los Angeles on CBS (8 p.m. EST). Ehrlich says TV viewers can see the clip without the glasses, but won't see the 3-D effect.

Jackson will be honored with a lifetime achievement award from the Recording Academy during the show.

"This is the one award from us that Michael never received," said Recording Academy President and CEO Neil Portnow.

Portnow said he expected Jackson's family to be in the audience but their attendance hasn't been confirmed. □



FILE - In this March 25, 2009 file photo, professional wrestler and actor John Cena poses for a portrait in New York.

(AP Photo/Jeff Christensen, file)

John Cena talks about latest film

By STACEY PLAISANCE,

Associated Press Writer

NEW ORLEANS — Wrestling star John Cena said he's enjoying the challenge of acting in his very first dramatic film.

The "WWE Monday Night RAW" star's only two previous movies — 2006's "The Marine" and last year's "12 Rounds" — were action films that involved "blowing things up" and "dodging bullets," Cena said Wednesday.

While in New Orleans for the filming of "Brother's Keeper," a World Wrestling Entertainment movie that also stars Danny Glover, Patricia Clarkson and Devon Graye, Cena called the project "a great change of pace."

"This one is a lot less physically demanding," he said. "I feel like I've been able to get involved in the story, and it's an easy story to embrace. I think everybody will be able to pull something from it."

The plot centers on a socially awkward teenage boy, played by Graye, who tries to reconnect his family after the death of his collegiate wrestling star father by following in his father's footsteps. In a scene being filmed Wednesday, Cena, who plays Graye's estranged older brother, shows up at the younger boy's high school to watch him compete in a wrestling match.

Clarkson plays their mother and Glover plays the role of a charming and mysterious man who shows up at pivotal times in the life of Graye's character.

"It'll be a good watch," Cena said. "People will walk away from this movie feeling good about themselves."

Filming is scheduled to run through the end of January, said David Calloway, the movie's producer who is also vice president of WWE Studios. □

9 foreign-language films advance in Oscar race



In this film publicity image released by Sony Pictures Classics, Leonard Proxauf is shown in a scene from, 'The White Ribbon.'

(AP Photo/Sony Pictures Classics)

LOS ANGELES — Nine foreign-language films, including works from Bulgaria and Kazakhstan, are on the short list in this year's Oscar race.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences says a committee of "several hundred" members selected the nine films from 65 that qualified in the category. The

number will be winnowed down to five by the time nominations in all categories are announced Feb. 2.

Still in contention in the foreign-language category are "El Secreto de Sus Ojos" from Argentina, "Samson & Delilah" from Australia, Bulgaria's "The World Is Big and Salvation Lurks Around the Corner," "Un Prophete" from France, Golden Globe winner "The White Ribbon" from Germany, Israel's "Ajami," Kazakhstan's "Kelin," "Winter in Wartime" from the Netherlands and Peru's "Milk of Sorrow."

The Academy Award ceremony is set for March 7. □

BUSINESS

Aruba TODAY

Stocks fall as China clamps down on bank lending

By STEPHEN BERNARD
and TIM PARADIS,
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK — The stock market posted its biggest drop in a month on concerns that tighter lending in China could endanger an economic recovery. Disappointing earnings from IBM and Morgan Stanley added to investors' angst.

At the same time, a spike in the dollar pushed commodity prices sharply lower Wednesday, hurting stocks of energy companies and materials producers.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 122 points from a 15-month high but ended well off its lows for the day. Demand for safe havens like government debt rose, pushing yields lower in the Treasury market.

Stocks have posted sharp swings since last week as investors try to determine the overall direction of the market. The Dow fell 101 Friday and jumped 116 points Tuesday.

The latest slide came as concern grew that China's efforts to keep its economy under control could hurt a global recovery. A top banking regulator said Wednesday that China will increase monitoring of banks as it tries to prevent speculative bubbles in areas like real estate. Last week China took steps to restrict runaway lending as a way to cool that country's rapid growth.

Investors are also questioning

whether a 68.2 percent gain in the benchmark Standard & Poor's 500 index in the past 10 months has been too much. Those doubts are intensifying as more companies report results from the final three months of 2009 this week. The early read is that cost-cutting has again helped boost profits, but revenues remain disappointingly weak.

IBM Corp. led the Dow lower. The company reported late Tuesday that its earnings rose 9 percent from a year earlier, while sales rose less than 1 percent.

The company's forecast was seen as cautious.

"We might see profitability out of companies this season but we're not really seeing revenue growth," said Dan Cook, senior market analyst at IG Markets in Chicago.

Banks posted mixed results. Bank of America Corp. reported better results and said credit conditions were improving, but also said the economic environment is "fragile." Wells Fargo & Co. sounded an optimistic note on consumer resilience, but Morgan Stanley fell short of expectations.

According to preliminary calculations, the Dow fell 122.28, or 1.1 percent, to 10,603.15. The Dow had been down as much as 208 points.

The broader S&P 500 index fell 12.19, or 1.1 percent, to 1,138.04, and the Nasdaq composite index fell 29.15, or 1.3 percent, to 2,291.25. □



In this Jan. 30, 2009 file photo, a trader leans on a phone post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. The stock market slumped Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2010, on concerns that tighter lending standards in China could endanger an economic recovery. Disappointing earnings results from IBM Corp. and Morgan Stanley added to the market's angst.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew, file)

House votes for faster tax breaks for Haiti gifts

By STEPHEN OHLEMACHER

WASHINGTON — Taxpayers who make donations for Haitian earthquake victims would be able to write off this charitable deduction when they file their 2009 taxes this spring, under a bill passed by the House Wednesday.

Under current law, donors would have to wait until they file their 2010 returns next year to take the deductions. But the newly advanced bill would allow donations made by the end of February to be deducted from 2009 returns.

The bill passed on a voice vote with no opposition. Quick Senate action is expected. A similar law was enacted in 2005 for donations to victims of the Indian Ocean tsunami that happened in December 2004.

"It's a simple gesture but it will encourage giving in this challenging economy," said Rep. Earl Blumenauer, D-Ore.

Last week's quake killed an estimated 200,000 people in Haiti, left 250,000 injured and made 1.5 million homeless, according to the European Union Commission. A powerful aftershock caused even more damage Wednesday.

"The bottom line is they need cash, they need checks," said Rep. Charles Rangel, D-N.Y., chairman of the tax-writing House Ways and

Means Committee.

The American Red Cross had raised a total of \$127 million as of Tuesday evening, spokesman Roger Lowe said. Of that amount, about \$24 million had come from people making \$10 donations by texting the word "Haiti" to the number 90999 from their mobile phones, Lowe said.

"The Red Cross wholeheartedly supports Congress' efforts to aid charitable giving during this time of unprecedented need for Haiti," the American Red Cross said in a statement. "The outpouring of support from the American public is making it into the hands of the Haitian people, and this legislation will help us provide even more help and hope to survivors."

Lowe said donations will help short-term relief efforts as well as long-term reconstruction projects.

The bill is also sponsored by the top Democrat and Republican on the tax-writing Senate Finance Committee, improving its likelihood of passing.

"When crisis calls, American citizens are at their finest," said Rep. Eric Cantor of Virginia, the House Republican whip. "The people of the U.S. have always been and continue to be a generous and giving people." □




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SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

Del Potro, Henin advance at Australian Open

DENNIS PASSA

AP Sports Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Justine Henin continued to excel in her Grand Slam comeback with a 7-5, 7-6 (6) win over Elena Dementieva while U.S. Open champion Juan Martin del Potro held off James Blake in a marathon five-setter Wednesday at the Australian Open.

Seven-time Grand Slam singles champion Henin produced the biggest win of her comeback from 20 months in retirement with a 7-5, 7-6 (6) defeat of fifth-seeded Elena Dementieva in the night match on Rod Laver Arena, the center court.

Fourth-seeded del Potro beat his 30-year-old American rival 6-4, 6-7 (3), 5-7, 6-3, 10-8 in four hours, 17 minutes on Hisense Arena, the second showcourt at Melbourne Park.

The win for the unranked Henin was another step closer to a possible quarterfinal match against U.S. Open



Justine Henin of Belgium celebrates after beating Elena Dementieva of Russia during the women's single match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Wednesday Jan. 20, 2010.

Associated Press

champion Kim Clijsters, who scored a 6-3, 6-3 win over Tamarine Tanasugarn of Thailand.

"It was very emotional for me on the court at the end because there was so much intensity," Henin said. "It's magical to win this kind of match in this kind of atmosphere."

It was Clijsters' U.S. Open title only three tournaments back from two years in retirement that inspired Henin, her fellow Belgian, to return to the tour. Rafael Nadal and Andy Roddick had earlier continued their paths towards a possible semifinal matchup.

But the thread that ties Nadal and Roddick together from 2009 — Roger Federer, who beat Roddick in the semis last year before losing to Nadal in the final — will likely still have something to say about who the eventual champion is on Jan. 31. The top-seeded Swiss star is on the other side of the draw and couldn't meet either Nadal or Roddick until the final.

Continued on Page 14

NBA Roundup

LeBron just misses triple-double in Cavs win

CLEVELAND (AP) — LeBron James scored 28 points and performed a few signature dunks as the Cleveland Cavaliers began a long home run over the next month by beating the Toronto Raptors 108-100 in the NBA on Tuesday.

James had 11 assists and nine rebounds as the Cavaliers, who just returned from a long road trip, improved to 15-3 at Quicken Loans Arena, where they'll play 10 of their next 12 before Feb. 19. The Eastern Conference leaders will host the Los Angeles Lakers on Thursday.

Mo Williams added 22 and Shaquille O'Neal 16 to become the fifth player in NBA history to surpass 28,000 in his career.

Chris Bosh scored 21 and Andrea Bargnani 19 for Toronto but Bosh was limited to just five after halftime by Cleveland's defense, which allowed 60 points in the opening half. The Raptors only scored 17 in the fourth.

Heat 113, Pacers 83

At Miami, Dwyane Wade scored 18 of his 32 points in the



Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James (23) tries to get past Toronto Raptors guard DeMar DeRozan in the first quarter of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2010, in Cleveland.

Associated Press

first quarter as Miami ran out to a commanding early lead then cruised against Indiana.

Michael Beasley scored 21 for Miami, which led 36-19 after one quarter and by 23 at one point in the opening half. Wade shot 12 of 20 and passed the career 11,000-point mark with a second-quarter layup. The Heat rested most of their starters for the entire fourth quarter.

Brandon Rush scored 17 for the Pacers, who are 4-17 on the road and 0-3 against the Heat this season. □

Shaq's superstar dunk contest grounded

By TOM WITHERS

AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND — So far, Shaquille O'Neal's proposal for a superstar dunk contest to raise money for Haiti hasn't left the ground.

On Tuesday night, O'Neal suggested that he would love to see his Cleveland teammate LeBron James take part in the NBA's All-Star dunk contest, but only if former champions Vince Carter, Kobe Bryant and another unnamed star also joined the field.

O'Neal said he wanted a large prize, with half of the money going to earthquake-ravaged Haiti. Carter, who won the contest in 2000, declined the offer and said Orlando teammate Dwight Howard, the 2008 champion, could do it.

"Nobody should feel obligated to do anything they don't want to do," Carter said. "I did make Tracy (McGrady) get in the dunk contest in 2000, but he could have said no. It's up to the individual."

Miami's Dwyane Wade heard about O'Neal's idea and supports the effort to raise more money — he has already donated a one-game check of about \$175,000 — but won't dunk, either. Only defending dunk champion Nate Robinson of the New York Knicks was behind O'Neal's philanthropic plan. "That seems like an awesome idea to me," he said. "For Shaq to say something like that, that'd be pretty cool and pretty awesome."

Put on the spot during a TV interview while watching last year's event, James said he would consider dunking this year in Dallas. It seemed as if James was trying to get some of the league's top players involved, but none of the game's premier dunkers wanted in and James recently decided not to participate after hedging for months. □

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NHL Roundup

Sharks power their way to top of NHL

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The San Jose Sharks continued their scoring barrage with a 5-1 win over the Los Angeles Kings on Tuesday to move clear top of the NHL standings.

A day after demolishing Calgary 9-1, Patrick Marleau and Ryane Clowe scored two goals apiece as San Jose moved two points above Chicago.

Dan Boyle added a goal and two assists in the Sharks' win over their California rivals.

Wayne Simmonds scored for the Kings.

Senators 4, Blackhawks 1

In Ottawa, Peter Regin had a goal and an assist to help Ottawa notch its fourth straight win, beating Central Division leaders Chicago.

Regin restored Ottawa's two-goal lead late in the second after Zack Smith and Ryan Shannon scored in the first to put the Senators up 2-0.

Mike Fisher scored a power-play goal 16:45 into the third to seal the win, while Brian Elliott made 29 saves.

Marian Hossa scored early in the second for the Blackhawks, whose three-game winning streak was ended.

Capitals 3, Red Wings 2

In Washington, Nicklas Backstrom and David Steckel scored 46 seconds apart late in the third period, rallying Washington past Detroit for its fourth straight victory.

Backstrom erased the Red Wings' on a power play with 6:45 left. Steckel then deflected Alexander Semin's shot to put Washington ahead. Matt Bradley also scored for the Capitals.

Dan Cleary and Brian Rafalski

scored for the Red Wings, who dropped a third straight despite outshooting Washington 46-23.

In Anaheim, California, Ryan Getzlaf and Evgeny Artyukhin scored 62 seconds apart to trigger a four-goal first period as Anaheim held on to beat Buffalo.

Bobby Ryan connected on a power play as the Ducks extended their home winning streak to eight games.

Mike Brown and rookie Troy Bodie also scored for Anaheim.

Buffalo's goals came via Tim Connolly, Clarke MacArthur, Steve Montador and Jochen Hecht.

In Pittsburgh, Evgeni Malkin broke out of a slump with a hat trick as Pittsburgh blew a three-goal lead before recovering to down New York.

Sidney Crosby scored twice for the Penguins.

New York had its four-game winning streak snapped.

Trent Hunter and Richard Park scored in the third period as the Islanders came back from deficits of 3-0 and 4-1 to tie it, but a tripping penalty midway through the period led to Malkin's power-play goal that made it 5-4.

In New York, Vinny Prospal had a goal and assist in New York's three-goal first period, setting up a big win over Tampa Bay.

His linemate Marian Gaborik tied a career high with four assists.

Brandon Dubinsky started his team's biggest scoring night of the season just 1:26 in, and Prospal and Chris Drury

followed to give the Rangers a 3-1 lead after the first period. Dan Girardi and Enver Lisin scored in the second as New York went ahead 5-1 despite recording only 20 shots to that point.

In Philadelphia, Jeff Carter scored twice as Philadelphia downed Columbus.

Ray Emery won for the first time since returning from abdominal surgery.

Carter scored on a breakaway 58 seconds into the game. He scored his 19th of the season in the second period.

Arron Asham, Chris Pronger and Dan Carcillo also scored for the Flyers, who were hosting Columbus for the first time since 2006-07.

Former Flyer RJ Umberger scored two goals for the Blue Jackets, and Rick Nash also scored.

In other NHL games it was,



San Jose Sharks center Joe Pavelski, center, congratulates center Patrick Marleau (12) after Marleau scored a goal as Los Angeles Kings goalie Jonathan Quick (32) and defenseman Jack Johnson (3) react in the second period of a NHL hockey game in Los Angeles, Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2010.

Associated Press

N.Y. Rangers 8, Tampa Bay 4, Chicago 1; Pittsburgh 6, 2; Philadelphia 5, Columbus N.Y. Islanders 4; Anaheim 3; Washington 3, Detroit 2; 5, Buffalo 4; San Jose 5, Los Angeles 1. □



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Time : 8pm- 10pm

 **RENAISSANCE.**
MARKETPLACE

Injured Brady out of Pro Bowl, replaced by Schaub

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — Tom Brady has pulled out of the Pro Bowl after a season in which he played with rib and finger injuries. He has been replaced by Matt Schaub of the Houston Texans.

The NFL announced the change of AFC backup quarterbacks on Wednesday. Brady and the rest of the New England Patriots had physicals after their 33-14 opening-round playoff loss to Baltimore on Jan. 10.

Brady played in all 16 regular-season games and completed 371 of 565 passes for 4,398 yards, 28 touchdowns and 13 interceptions. His completion percentage of 65.7 was seventh in the NFL and his passer rating of 96.2 was ninth.

In the playoff game against the Ravens, he completed 23 of 42 passes for 154 yards, two touchdowns and three interceptions.

Schaub, named to his first Pro Bowl, completed 396 of 583 passes for 4,770 yards, all the most in the NFL. He ranked fourth with a 67.9

completion percentage and seventh with a 98.6 passer rating. He threw for 29 touchdowns, including the game-winner in Houston's 34-27 victory over New England in the final regular-season game, and 15 interceptions.

Brady was chosen for his fifth Pro Bowl but withdrew for the second straight time. He and Patriots receiver Randy Moss pulled out of the 2008 game with ankle injuries on Feb. 4, the day after the Patriots lost 17-14 to the New York Giants in the Super Bowl. Brady threw an NFL record 50 touchdown passes that season.

Patriots wide receiver Wes Welker, who suffered a serious knee injury in the regular-season finale at Houston, initially was replaced in this year's Pro Bowl by Moss. Then Moss withdrew with an injury and was replaced by Chad Ochocinco of the Cincinnati Bengals.

Patriots guard Logan Mankins and nose tackle Vince Wilfork are scheduled to start in the game in Miami on Jan. 31. Safety Brandon Meriweather is a backup. □

AUSTRALIA OPEN

Continued from Page 12

Nadal breezed to a 6-2, 6-2, 6-2 second-round win over Lukas Lacko of Slovakia while Roddick was equally untroubled by his opponent in a 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 win over Brazil's Thomaz Bellucci.

Britain's Andy Murray, who could meet Nadal in the quarterfinals, advanced to the third round after beating Marc Gicquel of France 6-1, 6-4, 6-3. Murray is attempting to win his first Grand Slam title and become the first British man in more than 70 years to win a singles major.

No. 14 Marin Cilic, who ended French veteran Fabrice Santoro's 70th Grand Slam campaign in the first round, rallied to beat local hope Bernard Tomic in five sets in a center court second-round match that finished after 2 a.m.

Del Potro, who beat Federer in last year's U.S. Open final, had a chance to serve for the match at 6-5 in the fifth after breaking Blake. However, Blake broke back immediately, helped by two errors from the 21-year-old Argentine.

Del Potro again broke Blake for a 9-8 lead and another chance to serve it out. He closed with a big serve out to Blake's backhand side on his first match point.

Blake fell to 4-13 in five-set



James Blake of the U.S., reacts as he plays Juan Martin del Potro of Argentina during their men's singles match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Wednesday Jan. 20, 2010.

Associated Press

matches.

"It's tough to rank them," Blake said of his losses over the distance. "But right now it hurts pretty bad."

Del Potro has been bothered by tendinitis in his right wrist that first cropped up late last year and caused him to pull out of the semifinals of the Kooyong exhibition tournament last week.

When asked if he was in pain, he said: "A little bit. But I can play."

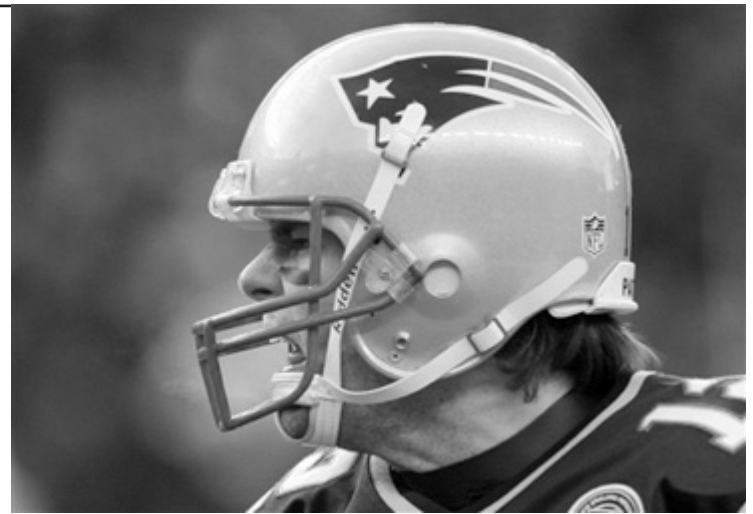
Roddick argued with the chair umpire, Fergus Murphy of Ireland, over a disputed call at a critical time that was ruled out when it was eventually shown to be in. Roddick felt he possibly could have

returned the ball if it had not been called out, and let the umpire know in no uncertain terms.

The Hisense Arena crowd didn't appreciate Roddick continuing the verbal jousting with Murphy after the match ended and booed the American.

The former No. 1-ranked Roddick took time to review video after the match, and was conciliatory in a news conference that followed.

"To be fair, I was more wrong than I thought I was out on court," Roddick said. "It was a lot closer than I thought as far as when the call came. I thought I was going to be 100 percent right." □



New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady (12) yells at an official during the fourth quarter of an NFL wild-card playoff football game against the Baltimore Ravens in Foxborough, Mass., Sunday, Jan. 10, 2010. The Ravens defeated the Patriots 33-14.

Associated Press

NFL players lobby Congress in battles with league

By FREDERIC J. FROMMER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Pro football players sought lawmakers' help Wednesday in preventing NFL owners from imposing a lockout after next season and said a league victory in a Supreme Court antitrust case could affect free agency and ticket prices.

"We want Congress to know that management is pushing us toward a lockout," said Kevin Mawae, the union president and one of about 30 current and former players who were on Capitol Hill.

A league official said the players' time would be better spent negotiating with the owners than lobbying Congress.

Mawae, a Tennessee Titans center, said in an interview that he hopes Congress will exert its leverage over the league to help prevent a lockout, which players fear the owners plan to do following the 2010 season. He cited comments by New York Giants co-owner John Mara to The New York Times this week that the two sides might be moving further apart in negotiations for a new deal.

Owners contend the existing agreement, which calls for players to receive about 60 percent of revenues, is too favorable for players.

"We like the agreement the way it is," Washington Redskins wide receiver Antwaan Randle El told The Associated Press. He said owners "want us to go back to the '70s," before the current free agency system started.

Several players said they told lawmakers how a lockout would affect workers who depend on games, such as employees of football stadiums and nearby restaurants. They said Congress has leverage over the league, including an antitrust exemption for broadcasting contracts that helped turn the NFL into the economic powerhouse it is today.

"I want Congress to review why they gave the exemption," Houston Texans guard Chester Pitts said. Holding his fingers a half-inch apart, he added, "Right now, the NFL has that much oversight. We want more."

League Vice President Joe Browne said in an e-mail that the union's new executive director, DeMaurice Smith, won election on a platform "that included 'using' Congress to exert influence on our labor talks. Kevin's comments — and the visits by dozens of players to the Hill today — are consistent with that promise. The owners and players are going to negotiate a deal. The only question is when. Having the union and its player reps spending more time in the negotiating room and less time lobbying Congress would be a good start." □

AP Exclusive: IOC recommends gender test centers

STEPHEN WILSON

AP Sports Writer

LONDON (AP) — The International Olympic

Committee is recommending the establishment of special medical centers around the world to deal with cases of athletes with ambiguous sexual characteristics.

The IOC also wants rules put into place by sports bodies to determine the eligibility on a “case by case” basis of athletes whose gender is called into question.

The IOC organized a two-day conference with medical specialists in Miami to consider guidelines for handling sex verification cases, an issue that gained global attention last year when South African runner Caster Semenya was ordered to undergo gender tests.

The case of Semenya, who won the women’s 800 meters at the world championships, was not dealt with directly in the closed meetings Sunday and Monday. But it helped focus the need for clarity on the issue of whether an athlete competes as a man or a woman.

“We did not discuss any particular case,” IOC medical commission chairman Arne Ljungqvist told The Associated Press in an exclusive interview. “We explored the science of all these matters. We established several important points based on up-to-date science and global expertise. Now we have the scientific basis for going further.”

Among the key conclusions was a proposal to set up health centers where experts would diagnose and treat athletes with what are known as “disorders of sex development.” Most cases, Ljungqvist said, require treatment such as surgery or hormone therapy.

“We cannot expect sports in every country around the world to have the necessary expertise,” Ljungqvist said by telephone. “That’s not possible, so we recommend strategically located centers where cases could be referred if necessary. It’s for the experts to decide what to do with each individual case. There is no general treatment. There is no general diagnosis.”

The Miami symposium — attended by about 15

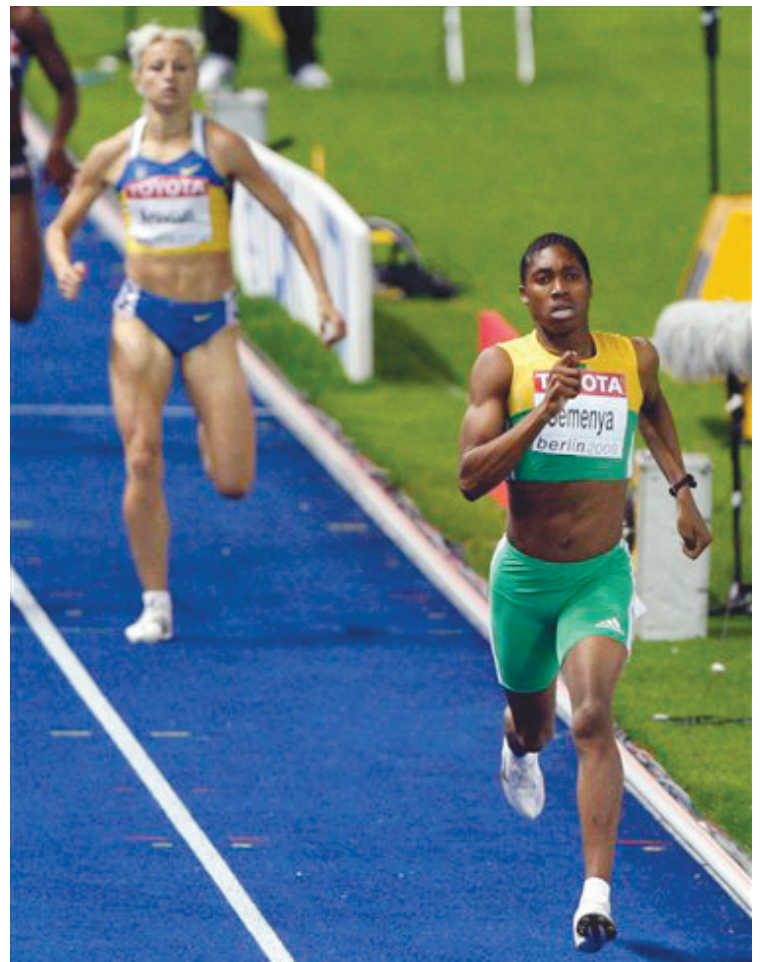
scientists, medical experts and sports federation doctors — took place amid continuing international scrutiny on Semenya, who was 18 when she won the 800 gold at the championships in Berlin in August. Her dramatic improvement in times and muscular build led the International Association of Athletics Federations to order gender tests.

The IAAF is still reviewing the test results to determine Semenya’s future. The IAAF has refused to confirm or deny Australian media reports that the tests indicate Semenya has both male and female sex organs.

Officials from the IAAF and world football governing body FIFA attended the Miami conference to explain their policies and experiences on gender issues, Ljungqvist said.

While the Semenya controversy has continued for months, Ljungqvist said the experts in Miami stressed that all cases should be dealt with quickly.

“It is very important to as rapidly as possible establish a



In this Aug. 19, 2009, file photo, South Africa’s Caster Semenya, right, runs to the finish line to win the gold medal in the final of the Women’s 800-meter race at the World Athletics Championships in Berlin. The International Olympic Committee is recommending the establishment of special medical centers to deal with cases of athletes with ambiguous sexual characteristics. The issue gained global attention last year when South African runner Caster Semenya was ordered to undergo gender tests.

Associated Press

Gebrselassie aims to beat his record in Dubai

BARBARA SURK

Associated Press Writer

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Aiming to break his own marathon world record on Friday at the Dubai Marathon, Haile Gebrselassie says “it’s possible.”

The 36-year-old Ethiopian will pick up a \$1 million bonus — on top of the \$250,000 winner’s prize — if he improves on the record of 2 hours, 3 minutes, 59 seconds he set in Berlin in 2008.

“To break the world record in marathon, everything needs to be perfect,” Gebrselassie said Wednesday, two days ahead of his first race in 2010. “This year it looks like it’s possible.”

That would also mean setting his 27th world record overall.

“If I break the record it will be special,” Gebrselassie said. “If not, what can I do? I have to think of the next marathon.”

That will be “somewhere in Europe,” Gebrselassie said. But for now, he is focused on Dubai’s race. He’s been training hard and is feeling confident that he will be able to calculate and distribute power over the 42.2 kilometers (26.2 miles) he will run on the streets along Dubai’s Persian Gulf coast.

“Up to 30 kilometers is like playing,” Gebrselassie said. “After that you have to give everything you have. And that’s what I want to do on Friday.”

His top rivals will be Kenyan runners Sammy Korir, Shadrack Kiplagat and Daniel Yego.

In the women’s field, defending champion Bezunesh Bekele Sertsu will be challenged by Ethiopian teammate Askale Tafa Magarsa and Helena Kirop of Kenya.



Double Olympic champion and marathon world record holder Haile Gebrselassie talks to the journalists during a press conference in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Wednesday Jan. 20, 2010. Haile Gebrselassie, 36-year-old Ethiopian champion said he targets a new marathon world best at the Dubai race on January 22.

Associated Press

In September, Gebrselassie won the Berlin Marathon for the fourth straight time, finishing in 2:06:08. He was on a pace to break his record for the first 18 miles, but slowed once his last pacemaker dropped out of the race.

Last year, Gebrselassie easily won the Dubai race, but steady rain throughout the race hampered his bid to beat his own record. This year, the weather seems more favorable, Gebrselassie said, and he added that he hoped Dubai will not warm up too much toward the end of the race.

“Marathon is not a simple event,” he said. “It’s 42 kilometers. You’re tired after you drive this distance.” □

diagnosis once you have come across a suspicious case,” he said. “It’s not something that should be allowed to drag on. If the sport comes across such a case you have to deal with it in an expeditious manner.” Sports federations should have rules to determine an athlete’s eligibility to compete during the gender diagnosis and treatment periods, Ljungqvist said.

“There cannot be a general rule,” he said. “The rule needs to allow for a case-by-case evaluation. Each case is unique. They are not many. They are all individual.”

The delegates also cited the potential benefit of “pre-participation health examinations” for aspiring athletes. Ljungqvist said some countries, including Italy, require athletes to take medical checks before they are ruled eligible for competition. “We emphasized that these exams could be a very important and useful tool for identifying athletes with these disorders,” he said. □

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FIVE QUESTIONS WITH ...ADAM STEINFELD, magician-comedian, star of the Magic Live!® theater-of-illusions show



BY REBECCA SWAIN
VADNIE

What have you been working on recently?

We launched our new version of Magic Live!® theater-of-illusions show at the Westin-aruba a few weeks ago, we turned a theater that's been closed for 2 years into a fun & exciting show within 10 days, now that's Magic!...the Magic Live!® show has been well received by tourists and magic leaders alike, every seat is clear sight-line to the stage, it only holds 125 seats, one of the reasons we're open everyday, the demand, has been very encouraging. I slice the beautiful girl-in-half, float her to the top of the theater, and then later in the show, float an audience in-the-air, the magic-comedy-illusion show will change every few weeks, I brought with me tons of new never-before-

seen illusions, so every live onstage performance is unique and different, expect lots of surprises.

When did you first realize you wanted to be a magician?

In elementary school, in 2nd grade, I fooled my teacher Mrs. Hooligan, in much frustration and consternation on her part, I performed a show & tell effect; using a bell that rang at any time, only I the magician could make it ring, she tried and tired, but couldn't make it work. I

also performed magic & ventriloquism at birthday parties as a youngster, I always considered it a hobby, that is until I won first place in the florida state magic convention contest. at age ten, quite an accomplishment for a kid-magician at the time, later on, studying to be a film-maker at the University of Miami, I put myself through college,

performing magic shows at events and comedy clubs, and cruiseships around the world, from Barcelona to San Juan.... if you turn your passion into your living, you can never go wrong.

How is your show different than say; David Copperfield, Lance Burton or Amazing Jonathan?

I present "magic" mixed with nonstop laughter, and world-class stage illusions, I don't take myself so seriously on stage, and I don't have a set script, most is improvised, lets just say controlled chaos, involving interactive audience fun...plus the Magic Live!® upscale theater at the Westin only seats 125, every seat is perfect sightlines to the stage, it's more of an private personal show, than watching it from a far in a large auditorium stage, than a typical magic show.

What is your greatest career achievement?

On April 1st, in 1988 (April Fools Day), I set a guinness world record, in magic, by performing 102 magic tricks in a little more than 3 minutes, it was filmed for network television, and aired in 52 countries around the world including the australian TV show, Just for the Record, and aired as a major news story throughout the USA, it earned me the title of; the World's Most Versatile Magician, the event was sponsored by Timex, and after that bookings started to pour in.

What is this I hear about your new conspiracynovel; Houdini Lives! ? I spent two years collaborating over the internet with New England mystery writer, Al Blanchard on my story; Houdini Lives!, the novel is now available online and at www.HoudiniLives.com, it's historical fiction, set 40 years past Houdini's death in 1926, the world's greatest magician, Houdini is living as his fathers profession in miami beach, in 1966, and he knows



other celebrities of that time period from Jackie Gleason to Sinatra to Larry King, I believe this story will one day be turned into a feature film.

How do you spend your time, when you're not performing? Aruba is without a doubt the most picturesque island of all

the caribbean, as a filmmaker, I like to spent my time shooting short stories, and interviews of the people of aruba, who are always fascinating, you can see a few shorts on www.Aruba123.com, one is a short documentary titled; Aruba, almost heaven. I plan to shoot more in the future. □



IF YOU GO

What: Magic Live!® theater-of-illusions show
Where: Westin - Aruba, palm beach (high-rise area)
Who: starring, comedy illusionist, Adam Steinfeld
ShowTime: 9:00 pm, nightly, theater opens at 8:30pm
Tickets: at the door or Westin-aruba concierges desk
Box office opens at 7:30pm nightly
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Group Sales: 561-1090
ALL AGES APPROPRIATE



Aruba to continue fundraise for Haiti

ORANJESTAD - On Monday the 25th of January, the Government of Aruba together with the entire population of Aruba will fundraise for the victims of the tragic earthquake resulting in disaster in Haiti. There will be a local Radio / Telethon held in Entertainment Center of Aruba starting at 6 PM. The children and relatives of Aruba's former leader and a advocate of Aruba's



separation from the rest of the Netherlands Antilles to achieve "Status Apparte" will be present during the island's holiday "Betico Croes Day". The event will be held on the birthday of Aruba's former leader who died after an accident on 31 December 1985

(the night of status aparte) and was never conscious to see his accomplishment. He is called the father of the Aruban nation.

Aruba's recently elected Prime Minister of Aruba is pledging allegiance to provide

as much support as Aruba can possibly do to help Haiti. Eman states that January 25th is important one of the most important dates to Aruba and we intend to share our day of unity and support to our fellow Caribbean nation in need. □



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By: Roland W. Peterson

Dedicated to the volunteers of the Red Cross

The dust is choking me
I can hardly see
Is Haiti the place
I want to be
The promise I made
was only to me

In the dark I am feeling
Two little fingers
a little hand
and then an arm

The little body
is still warm
I lift him up
He clings around my neck
He utters something
I don't understand

Now I am feeling my way
out
I holler and shout
But no one hears me
I wonder what will be

The dust is burning my
eyes
and clogging my throat
I can hardly breathe

There is no way out
I fall to my knees
and ask the Lord to
save the little one
I forget to ask Him the way
out

I am growing weaker
The grip around my neck
is also getting weaker

As I lay on the ground
my body is getting cold
I hear a dog bark
I shiver in the dark

Then suddenly I hear a
shuffle
I hear voices
I see a little dim light
in the distance
I make my last scream for
help

We are coming
The Red Cross is coming
A strong hand
grabs my arm
and pulls me up.
The little one is still
clinging around my neck

As we exit the rubble
the sunlight is blinding
I peer around to thank
the strong hand

But there is no one
to be seen
A screaming mother
pulls the little one from my
arms

As I wipe the dust off my
face
I notice a chain around my
neck
with a little Red Cross
that is so dear
Left behind by that unknown
Red Cross volunteer

Aruba's first annual International Film Festival announced



PALM BEACH – Aruba's first International Film Festival was announced during a press conference at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa. A considerable number of press members, Aruba Tourism Authority and Aruba Hotel &

Tourism Association officials, resort executives, local artists and dignitaries joined festival founders Jonathan Vieira and Giuseppe Cioccarelli, and prominent member of the International film community Claudio Masenza, on the

gorgeous terrace of the Sunset Grille restaurant for the presentation which was opened by Aruba's Minister of Tourism Otmar Oduber. They all had some fantastic news to share: For eight days in the spring of 2010, Aruba will be the center of attention in the world of cinematography. Actors, producers, film-makers and members of the international press will converge on the Island to witness the first Aruba International Film Festival. They will experience firsthand what has made Aruba the destination of choice for the many loyal visitors who return to the Island year after year.

During the week, 21 important films will be shown. Some will be smaller, independent films of special interest, some will be world premiers, some will be blockbuster movie releases from major studios. Each film will be represented by an artist who played an instrumental role in making that film a success. Some of these representatives will be familiar faces and household names, others will be influential behind-the-scenes



icons of the entertainment world. Journalists from all over the world will be in attendance to record the important event, and take back with them an invitation from the Aruban people to see our beautiful Island for themselves. With over 300 VIP guests expected from all over the world, and over 40 major news outlets covering every step of the Aruba Film Festival, the event is sure to become a highlight of the 2010 social and business, calendar in Aruba.

Films will be shown both at the Paseo Herencia Shopping and Entertainment Center and at The Seaport Mall cinemas.

Gala Dinners and private parties will be held at the top restaurants on the Island. Accommodations for the international guests will be hosted by the major hotels. Panel discussions and Master Classes will be held during the day at schools and cultural centers across the Island.

Pictured here snapshots from the well-attended gathering. For information of the AIFFA contact: Development Office, Aruba International Film Festival, J.E. Irausquin Blvd 382A, Aruba, Dutch Caribbean, Phone: +297.735.0839, Email: Jonathan@arubafilm.com, WWW.ARUBAFILM.COM





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Two missing Dutch families confirmed dead

The two missing Dutch families who were staying at a hotel which collapsed in last week's earthquake in Haiti have been confirmed dead.

The two couples and their three adoptive children were identified by an Israeli identification team using dental records it received from the Netherlands Forensic Institute. Their bodies will be repatriated as soon as possible. The Foreign Ministry has informed the next of kin.

The families were staying in Villa Therese, a hotel in a suburb of Port-au-Prince, when the disaster struck. Their remains were buried near the hotel in a temporary grave on Monday. The Dutch honorary consul and Dutch marines, deployed to the disaster area, attended a short ceremony in their remembrance.

Another missing Dutch national from the Dutch Antilles has been located, leaving three people on the Foreign Ministry's missing list. □

Tough choices ahead for Caribbean energy sector

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad and Tobago, Jan. 19 (UPI) -- The Caribbean energy sector faces tough choices this year because of steadily high crude oil costs, trade deficits amid a continuing economic downturn and concerns over climate change that require choices the region's countries cannot make without more cash in their coffers.

At issue is the Caribbean's conundrum: oil prices it can ill afford to pay and finding substitutes for oil that it cannot fund.

Some small gains have been made in the Caribbean as part of U.N. programs to help develop renewable energy sources, but the quantities are minuscule compared with the region's requirements.

As a result, economic development is likely to remain inhibited by the energy constraints, said analysts attending an international Caribbean energy conference in Trinidad and Tobago.

The conference Jan. 25-27 is an

energy-sector event in the Caribbean region. Although the conference this year has set the theme as "energy and entrepreneurship," delegates said the subtext is that the Caribbean has to rely more on its own meager resources to cope with its growing energy needs.

Caribbean industry experts are keen to learn more about renewable energy extraction techniques from more advanced societies but do not want to get tied down in ventures that raise huge credit schemes they cannot handle.

Delegates said while the Caribbean's own methods of producing renewable energy -- whether hydroelectric, solar or soil based -- are often cheap and primitive, technologies offered by companies from outside the region are advanced and promise higher yields but required large cash outlays as initial investment.

A meeting point had to be reached to learn

from experiences elsewhere and adapt technologies to the Caribbean's needs economically and with tangible results, said the delegates.

Caribbean countries are looking to forge closer ties with emergent economies like China, India and Latin American energy producers, including Brazil and Venezuela.

The Caribbean energy sector has attracted international attention lately. Soon after the Trinidad conference, many delegates have been invited to attend yet another conference on the subject in the Dutch Antilles island of Aruba.

The Aruba conference will also look into issues of electricity theft in Jamaica and the Dominican Republic, pipelines in the region, wind power, biofuels and geothermal energy.

Creating energy from waste will be examined at the Aruba conference, organizers said. □

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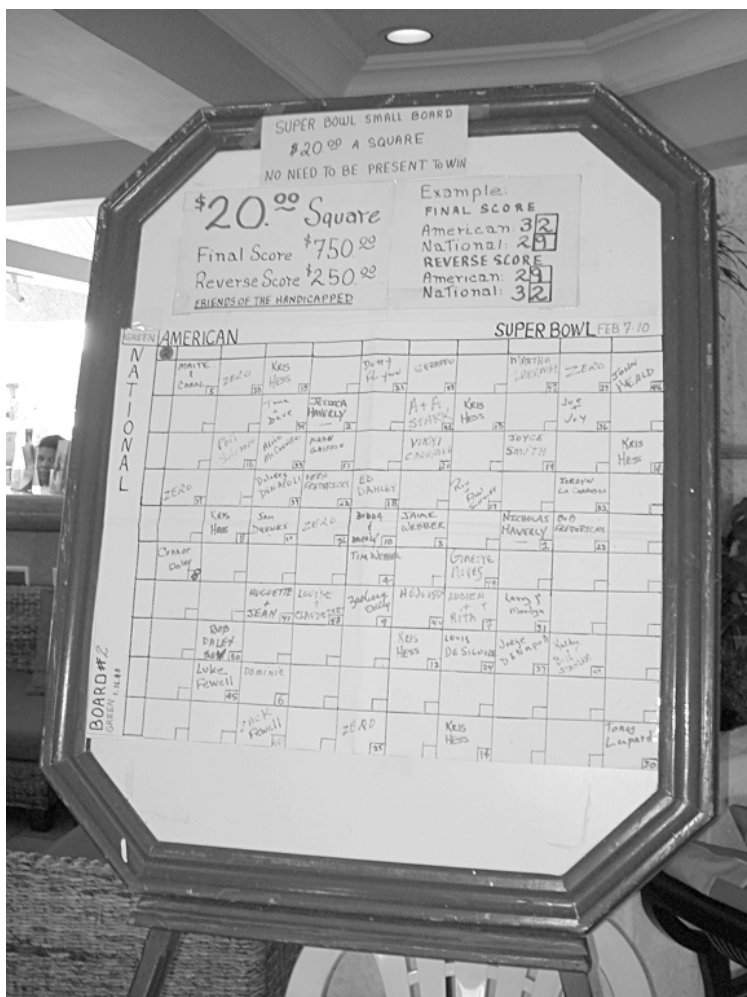
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Friends of the Handicapped announce their 2010 program of activities

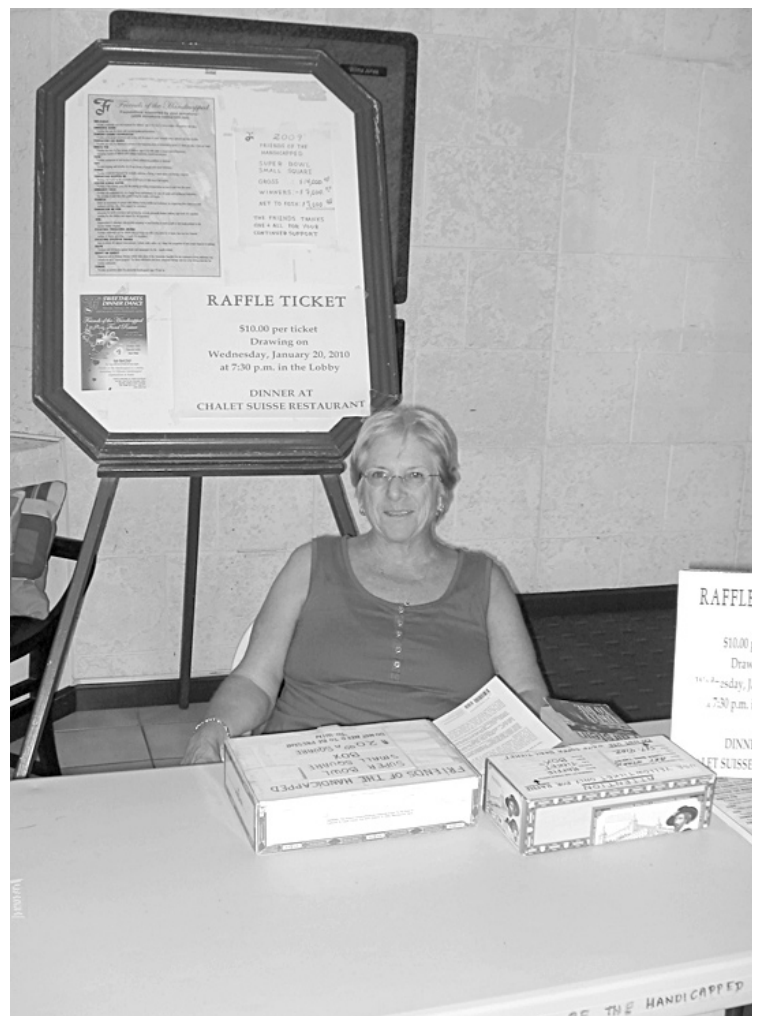


EAGLE BEACH-- It all began in 1987 when two pool boys had shells on a table for sale, with a sign saying "Proceeds will go to the handicapped." This became the seed of an idea that led four members of the Aruba Beach Club to form an organization supported by their friends, called Friends of the Handicapped, with the goal of helping the disadvantaged on the island.

Over the years FOH had raised and distributed over US\$1,000,000.00 to various organizations caring for the socially, physically and mentally handicapped residents of Aruba, with 100% of the proceeds given back each year at the end of the winter season, as FOH members head back to their homes in North America after wintering here at the Aruba Beach Club, Casa del Mar & Costa Linda.

Their 2010 fund raising events include a Superbowl Party, on Superbowl Sunday, the much-anticipated Sweethearts' Ball at the Radisson Aruba Resort Spa & Casino on February 20th, restaurant raffles and weekly collections at the Sunday Holy Mass services at Casa del Mar.

Pictured here Superbowl squares on boards, for sale in the lobby of Casa Del Mar and the Aruba Beach Club for \$20 dollars each, with a chance to win \$750 or \$250 for the reverse score on Superbowl Sunday February 7th, 2010.



Also selling, \$10 raffle tickets to various restaurants, the raffle is drawn every Wednesday evening 7:30 p.m. in lobby of Casa del Mar. Also available tickets to the Sweethearts Ball, at \$90 per person or Awg 150, which include a cocktail hour, open bar for the night, dance music by NBO band members and gourmet dinner with door prizes, and surprises.

Last year's FOH board members, President Art Stark and his energetic volunteers Steve Wild, Philip Solomon, Maryann La Carruba,

Anoushka Maduro, Pauline Daley, Alma Stark, David Ulmschneider, Sal La Carruba, Linda Todman and extra volunteers Jean and Huguette Vatiquette, concluded their winter 2009 fund raising season with over Awg 100,000 in direct donations and in contributions from CEDE Aruba, Centro pa Desaroyo Social di Aruba—the Center for Social Development of Aruba, who matched their contributions, an impressive case of local and tourist collaboration! □

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The Netherlands Antilles and the Aruba branches of

PricewaterhouseCoopers make a donation



ORANJESTAD -- PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) a market leader in an era of Global Crisis and Recovery, reacted generously today to the heartbreaking Haitian crisis.

As a private sector entity, it reached out to its network of regional branches in Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao and St Maarten and to the offices of its affiliate Caribbean Accounting Services in Bonaire and Curaçao to encourage and stimulate donations from individual associates and corporate sources, contributing to a substantial, Awg/Fls 57,420

check, designed to help Haiti in a time of great need.

The donation collected on four islands, from PwC employees and owners was presented to Greg Peterson, President Red Cross Aruba by PwC's employees Adeline Marie Blanchard and Sicilia Joseph Jean Mary, who are both of Haitian descent.

In his warm words of acceptance Peterson declared that the world shares the grief and the concerns over the fate of the stricken Pearl of the Caribbean and wished the members of the Caribbean Haitian community strength and resilience in view of the



horrors seen on TV. Peterson declared that the funds collected in the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba will be funneled to the Red Cross Haiti, in a matter of days.

PwC's spokesperson reported that the donation was given to the Red Cross, as an international relief organization that operates around the world, and is always prepared to mobilize, save lives and provide much-

needed assistance.

PwC is of the opinion, the spokesperson stated, that it is the private sector's obligation to operate in ways that benefit society, and foster the well-being of the community on an ongoing basis.

The people of PwC, he concluded, are committed to playing a leading role in achieving a better future, as they understand and accept their Corporate

Responsibility.

PricewaterhouseCoopers (www.pwc.com) provides industry-focused assurance, tax and advisory services to build public trust and enhance value for their clients and their stakeholders. More than 163,000 people in 151 countries across the network share their thinking, experience and solutions to develop fresh perspectives and practical advice. □



Farewell dinner at Salt & Pepper

PALM BEACH - Interns are everywhere on Aruba and year round. And as we all know an internship will come to his end. For a couple of these interns their time on Aruba is over so they decided to organize a farewell dinner and went for a fun night out to Salt & Pepper.

Why Salt & Pepper? Because the menu offers something for everybody and they offer a great value, all this makes it easy when with a bigger group. And as an intern you don't earn a full salary so a place like

Salt & Pepper is a good place for a full not too expensive dinner, specially when you come between 5 and 7 pm and receive a free pitcher of home-made Sangria with you tapas or main course. More people with different wishes? Come to Salt & Pepper, I bet you will find something you like, like these interns did!!

Salt & Pepper is located at Arawak Gardens, Palm Beach. In front of Occidental Grand. Opens at 8 am for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Bar till 1 am, weekend till 3 am. □

The physical world is constantly trying to seduce us into absolutes. Our Ego, Bless its Protective Purpose, likes to see things in black and white, but physical existence is anything but simple and straightforward.

Start to become aware of when you and others speak in absolutes. It has to be this way, it can't be that way. You either agree or disagree. There is no middle ground. If you're not with me, you're against me. Be aware of the Absolute Mentality. It indicates immaturity and often the intent to manipulate.

In physical expression, there must always be a middle ground, and that's what Life is all about. We grow by finding compromise in our conflicts. We expand by searching the middle ground. We are each unique individuals, and we each experience life very differently. There are an infinite number of paths to reach any goal, and the path depends on the person following it. Even on a simple walk, the same route is experienced very differently by everyone. We notice different things, and we each have different emotional reactions to what we notice.

One of the purposes of Humanity is to run the gamut of experience. The Infinite wants to experience everything the physical has to offer. It is natural for us to think that what works for us will work

HUMAN HINTS

The Absolute Mentality

for others, but this is usually not the case. With experience, we become comfortable and set in our particular beliefs, forgetting that all paths are possible.

It is also important to remember that this is true for enlightenment. It is ok to listen to other's stories of enlightenment, but don't expect your experiences of enlightenment to be the same. Everyone expands into the fourth dimension differently. Remember too, that when we become enlightened, we don't need to tell stories about it.

This physical world is not absolute. Humanity is not black and white. The paradoxical forces blend and meld, interact and intertwine, reaching beyond shades of grey into the realm of High Definition Infinite Technicolor.

Keep your mind open and allow other people to have their experiences. Don't tell people what path they must follow, and don't let people dictate your path to you. Offer suggestions, then allow people to follow the path of their choice. Don't be upset if people ignore your advice.

When you notice that others are speaking in absolutes, don't let yourself agree with their limitations. You've got plenty of your own limitations, you don't need theirs too. When you find yourself speaking in absolutes, ask yourself why your mind is so closed to other possibilities for other people. When you release your Absolute Mentality, you grow by opening your mind and allowing others to have their experiences.

Until Tomorrow...

Go to www.HumanHints.com to sign up to receive this column in your email each day.

~Quentin Danziger

Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has also studied many avenues of alternative thought.

HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you choose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

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NINE
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DECEMBER 2009



SCHEDULE FOR WEEK OF JANUARI 21 - JANUARI 27

*matinee: saturday - monday | late show: friday & saturday

AT RENAISSANCE - ORANJESTAD

R	UP IN THE AIR				
	daily:	4:00	6:30	9:00	NEW
	matinee:	1:15	late show:	11:30	
PG	TOOTH FAIRY				NEW
	daily:	4:00	6:15	8:45	
	matinee:	1:30	late show:	11:00	
PG-13	THE BLIND SIDE				
	daily:		8:15		
	matinee:		late show:	11:00	
PG	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS "THE SQUEAKQUEL"				
	daily:	4:00	6:00		
	matinee:	12:00	2:00	late show:	
PG	OLD DOGS				
	daily:	4:15	6:15	8:15	10:15
	matinee:	12:15	2:15	late show:	12:15
G	HACHIKO: A DOG'S STORY				
	daily:		5:00		
	matinee:	12:30	2:45	late show:	
R	BROTHERS				
	daily:		7:15	9:45	
	matinee:		late show:	12:15	
PG-13	AVATAR 3D				3D
	daily:	4:30	7:45		
	matinee:	1:15	late show:	11:00	

AT PASEO HERENCIA

PG-13	NINE				NEW
	daily:	6:00	8:30		
	matinee:	1:00	3:30	late show:	11:00
PG-13	SHERLOCK HOLMES				
	daily:	5:30	8:30		
	matinee:	2:30	late show:	11:30	
PG	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS "THE SQUEAKQUEL"				
	daily:	4:00	6:00		
	matinee:	12:00	2:00	late show:	
G	THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG				
	daily:	4:30			
	matinee:	12:00	2:15	late show:	
PG-13	IT'S COMPLICATED				
	daily:		6:45	9:15	
	matinee:		late show:	11:45	
R	THE BOOK OF ELI				
	daily:	6:00	8:45		
	matinee:	12:30	3:15	late show:	11:45
PG-13	AVATAR 3D				3D
	daily:	4:45	8:00		
	matinee:	1:30	late show:	11:15	
R	ARMORED				
	daily:		8:00	10:00	
	matinee:		late show:	12:00	

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PALM BEACH – The health and calorie conscious among us need fear steakhouses no more. Whether it's a low-carb, low-fat, or even vegetarian diet you follow, Texas de Brazil Churrascaria fits into just about every dieter's menu plan.

Low carb eaters will have all their expectations surpassed with a tempting carnivorous selection of umpteen cuts of sizzling beef, pork, lamb, sausage, and poultry. The meats are prepared in the healthiest style of cooking—slow roasting—where much of the fat drips off in the roasting process, so those looking for a lower fat option to sautéing, pan frying, or deep frying will also be able to indulge.

The Brazilian-style steakhouse also offers a garden full of healthy eats on a lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the

slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but Texas de Brazil's version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, home-made soups, and much more.

The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking to splurge while on vacation, Texas de Brazil will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal.

**Restaurant
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Monday - Sat 6 pm - 11
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SUPERB NEW ILLUSIONS

MAGIC Live! Comedy On the Beach 3 shows in 1



Magician Adam Steinfeld laughs it up, on stage, at the Magic Live!® theater, showroom.

ASTONISHING! EXCITING! MYSTIFYING! FUN! ...enjoy a hilarious evening of Magic, fun for entire family.

PALM BEACH - STEINFELD presents WOW factor! at the MAGIC LIVE!® ...theater-of-illusions show, Westin - Aruba opened on December 25 at 9PM. MAGIC Live!® theater-of-illusions show, starring Adam Steinfeld... is an amazing night of Magic, Grand Illusions and Comedy, superb magic at it's

highest level, a lot of fun from start to finish, laugh-out-loud funny, intelligent, sophisticated, unconventional grand illusions, that will keep you asking, 'how the heck did he do that?' Perfect for the holiday season, have you ever dreamed of disappearing and reappearing in an instant? Master illusionist, comedy magician, Adam Steinfeld opened DEC 25, MagicLive show at the WESTIN, Aruba, nightly 9PM, every night, doors open at 8:30PM, and tickets may be purchased at the door, in the intimate Magic Live!

theater-of-illusions theater, every seat is close to the stage. In his new illusion he calls; "PRESENT", a tall girl steps into a tiny box, elevated in-the-air, the box spins 360 degrees,

then the sections are taken away, one by one, until the girl vanishes completely... right before your eyes!

Then as if that isn't enough to run to your local optometrist, he re-assembles the box for the magicbabe to make a triumphant reappearance. It's an all new original illusion not seen anywhere else in the world.

I went back to see the show during rehearsals, and still couldn't figure out the secret.

Tourists and local fans will remember Steinfeld for past performances, in Aruba,



and on network television, Mr. Steinfeld recently authored "the Houdini Conspiracy", aka "Houdini Lives!", a collaborated work with new

england mystery writer Al Blanchard, he believes will be turned into a feature film.

The intimate Magic Live!® theater-of-illusions showroom is located just off the lobby of the Westin-Aruba in high-rise area, j.e. irausquin boulevard 77. Palm Beach, Aruba. Magic Live!® BOX

OFFICE tickets are located in main lobby. Purchase TICKETS AT THE DOOR.

SEE MAGIC, comedy and "seemingly impossible feats, get ready to marvel at the all new, MAGIC! theater-of-illusions show starring ADAM STEINFELD, opens DECEMBER, 25, nightly 9PM at the WESTIN, aruba. MAGIC LIVE! theater-of-illusions show...at the WESTIN-Aruba, 9pm nightly, starring Adam Steinfeld. ☐



IF YOU GO

What: Magic Live! theater-of-illusions show
Where: Westin - Aruba, palm beach (high-rise area)
Who: starring, comedy illusionist, Adam Steinfeld
Time: 9:00 pm, theater opens at 8:30pm
Tickets: at the door
Price: \$19.95 under 15, \$29.5 adults
Group Sales: 561-1090
website: www.MagicLive.com
Blog: www.MagicOnTheBeach.com

New Year's Party @ Tierra del Sol by Casa Tua Barcelona



MALMOK - The American couple Mark & Lorraine Donovan gave their annual New Year's party for Aruban friends and business associates.

The guests were invited at the house of Mark and Lorraine at Tierra del Sol. The couple warmly welcomed their guests with Sangria wine to start with. The staff of Casa Tua Barcelona catered the food; different kind of tapas and of course the 'not to be missed' Paella was present. The food was outstanding and chef Jacques got compliments all over! Mark and Lorraine treated their guests not only with warmth but as usual also generously with raffle 'door' prizes; an American custom but appreciated by everyone. Jairo Boekhoudt and his band took the musical part. Within no time they made the guests turn wild with salsa, merengue and modern music. There was no one who could sit still; everybody danced and everybody had a great time! What a wonderful way to start off your New Year! ☐



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Photo by Diane Keijzer



Fishes & More showcases the best seafood entrees

Ask about the Early Bird Menu from 4 PM to 6:30 PM



Fishes & More specialize in freshest fish and seafood on the island, and at the same time please the non-fish lovers as well. All the dishes are prepared a la minute by an internationally experienced kitchen team, which gives the twist to the fabulous dishes. Influences from all over

the world are found back on the menu and they are already well known for the daily changing specials. If you have a large party, or if there is anything you feel like in particular, Fishes & More can always arrange to have your dinner cooked just for you, as they work

only with fresh and honest products! Ideally located in front of the Occidental Resort (Former Allegro), they are visited both by individuals and families alike, as they have a super kids menu, so they can enjoy their dinner as much as you

will yours!

Enjoy live entertainment every night at 8PM, and even after dinner the perfect night out continues, as you can shop till you drop since the shops on our friendly

square are open until eleven. See what its like to experience real fresh dining joy with a twist!

Open from 4 pm until midnight

For reservations call
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Every Friday

The Mexican Fiesta Dinner Sail is a must do activity

Experience the fun and excitement of sailing Mexican-style aboard one of Red Sail Sports' luxurious catamarans. The 2-hour sail takes you along Aruba's scenic coastline, while being delighted by live Mariachi Music.

This vibrant unforgettable sail provides a casual Mexican Buffet Dinner and a complimentary bar featuring Coronita beer, Margaritas, and Tequilas. Watch the sun set, the colors of the sky change and the island slowly light up. This is the perfect sail to celebrate the end of a Caribbean day and the start of a fun filled Caribbean night.



To make reservations call 586-1603 or go to www.redsailaruba.com.

Be sure to visit one of Red Sail Sports' stores for the latest in swimwear, beach essentials, T-shirts and souvenirs.

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Includes:

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Adults	\$59
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Every Friday 6-8pm

Book Now! Call 583-1603

red sail sports

Aqua Grill... "the hip restaurant that is heaven on earth for seafood lovers," Fodor's Travel Guide



Among the island's many fine restaurants, Aqua Grill is the premier seafood sensation. Excitingly prepared in an open-view kitchen, fresh local catches join delicacies from waters abroad, including live Maine lobster, Norwegian salmon, sashimi tuna, and Alaskan king crab, along with a selection of non-seafood dishes.

Aqua Grill's award-winning chef offers a menu of

classic and contemporary dishes. The fresh seafood is prepared in a variety of regional styles, melding local island charm with the traditions of New England, the spices of Jamaica, the zesty flavors of Italy, the mystique of Indonesia, and beyond. In addition to a selection of authentic dishes, your seafood can also be prepared wood-grilled, broiled, poached, steamed, or pan-fried upon request. Complimenting the menu is the island's largest raw bar and a generous wine

list of over one hundred selections.

Set in a contemporary decor combining the traditions of a New England fish house with the ease and character of the Caribbean, Aqua Grill's warm, island hospitality is the final ingredient to the complete dining experience on Aruba.

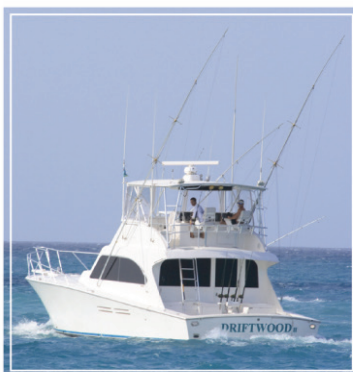
Open nightly from 6pm to 11pm, 5:00pm to 11:00pm on Sunday. □



Catch your own dinner with Driftwood! Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "From the pier to your plate!"

ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of **Driftwood Fishing Charters**, the successful fishermen of the established seafood restaurant **Driftwood** in Oranjestad.

Driftwood owner Herby Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words



"fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on

the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35 ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50 ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on a daily basis from 8am to

Catch your own dinner

12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm. A charter includes: captain, mate, all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included. You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to www.driftwoodaruba.com.

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Driftwood Restaurant

This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their extended

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Bill Brooks dead at 76



West Palm Beach, FL reports the death of retired General Manger Bill Brooks. He was 76.

Brooks, who had been suffering with cancer, died in Curacao on Saturday (1/16), while he and his wife, Muffy, were on a cruise to the Panama Canal.

The funeral service has been set for Monday, January 25th in Palm Beach.

Bill Brooks had a most unusual career. He first became a Catholic priest, but according to an obituary in the Palm Beach Post, quit the priesthood when the church refused to denounce the Vietnam War. Then, as a broadcaster, Brooks became Station Manager and then General Manager of WPTV, serving as GM for 17 years.

After retiring in 1998, Brooks turned to politics. He was selected to the Palm Beach Council and served for eight years.

"I know of no one who affected as many Palm Beach County lives in such a positive way as Bill Brooks - a priest, a teacher, a broadcaster, a political leader. He served many roles, but his compass always pointed toward community service," said Brian Lawlor, Scripps Sr. VP of Television in a video posted on the station website. □

Poll predicts win for NA

PHILIPSBURG--An 18 per cent lead and a victory for National Alliance (NA) over main rival the Democratic Party (DP) are predicted for Friday's parliamentary elections, based on an opinion poll carried out by Caribbean Development Research Services (CADRES) at the end of December. This would mean that NA would capture two of the three parliamentary seats allotted to St. Maarten. The poll, which sampled 480 registered voters in person-to-person interviews, was conducted "on the request of an investor who wanted to get a reading on the election," poll coordinator Janus James told the newspaper. The sample was pulled from all 16 districts.

The 480 people were randomly selected from the 19,355 registered voters. Originally, 500 registered voters who gave their opinion about what is to be the last election for the Parliament of the Netherlands Antilles, but only 480 answers were deemed usable, James explained.

An 18 per cent lead in voter support is predicted for National Alliance (NA), led by William Marlin, over Sarah Wescot-Williams' Democratic Party (DP). Based on the poll sample, 46 per cent were in favour of NA while 28 per cent were for

DP. People's Progressive Alliance (PPA), headed by Gracita Arrindell, received five per cent of the voter support.

Marlin and Wescot-Williams are expected to be the top two vote getters, with their numbers being "neck and neck" at the end of polling. NA candidates Commissioner Frans Richardson and parliamentarian George Pantophlet are next on the list of highest vote getters. They are followed by Arrindell and other NA candidates: State Secretary of Health Patrick Illidge and Commissioner Hyacinth Richardson.

The first DP candidate to emerge on the high vote getter list is former Commissioner Roy Marlin, followed by NA parliamentarian Rodolphe Samuel and DP Island Councilman Leroy de Weever.

Marlin emerged the "preferred leader" for the island, with a 12 per cent lead over Wescot-Williams, according to the poll. Of the sample voters, 33 per cent chose Marlin, 21 per cent opted for Wescot-Williams and eight per cent for Arrindell. "Yet another reliable predictor for a National Alliance victory is a dramatic 14 per cent swing in voter support to NA [from other parties] since the last [parliamentary] election. DP and PPA lost ground to the National Alliance," James

said. DP lost three per cent of its swing voter support from 2006 and PPA lost eight per cent.

The poll also found that the "widely held perception among voters is that the National Alliance will win Friday's Parliamentary elections. This is one of the key indices in measuring competitive strengths in election races," the poll coordinator said.

Forty-four per cent of the people polled showed a preference for NA to lead St. Maarten into country status, while 29 per cent preferred DP, a 15 per cent difference.

Concern about crime and violence scored high, 23 per cent, with the 480 people polled. High on the list of immediate concerns were also cost of living/economy (23 per cent), illiteracy/job opportunity for youngster (17 per cent) and cost of water and electricity (10 per cent).

James is associated with the Barbados based CADRES, which has conducted research for corporate clients, institutions and political parties is the Caribbean.

NA leader William Marlin in an interview with this newspaper for its Election Special 2010 had alluded to a poll commissioned by his party predicting that it would get it a landslide in Friday's Elections. □

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Scott Brown: the Ben-Hur of Massachusetts politics

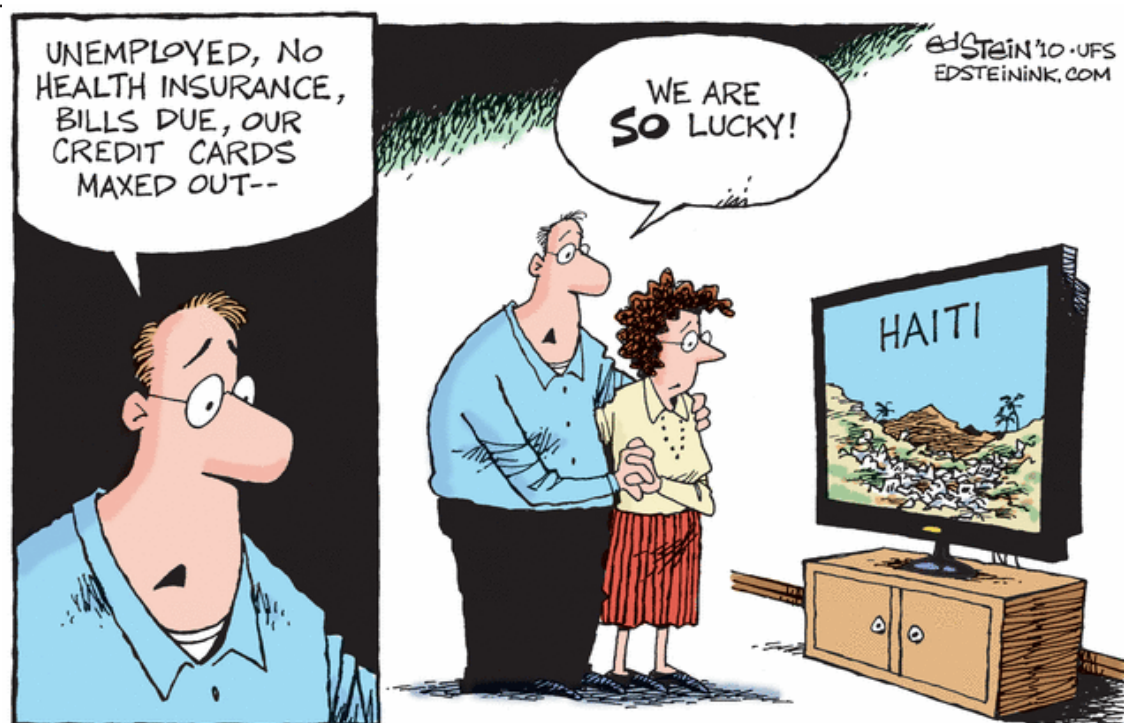
By Scott W. Johnson

Minneapolis – As Barack Obama completes his first year in office, observers may wonder how his hope and change thing is working out. Tonight, Massachusetts voters provided the answer. Americans are hoping for change, alright, but the change they desire is change from the leading policies of the Obama administration. Massachusetts is a heavily Democratic state, arguably the bluest in the country. It has not elected a Republican Senator since 1972. The seat in issue had been held by Democrats since 1953 – 47 of them by the late Ted Kennedy. And Scott Brown came out of nowhere to run an insurgent campaign whose success defied enormous odds. In a campaign in which Mr. Brown's well-used GMC truck took on a starring role, the best metaphor for his triumph might be a chariot race. Here I turn to Charlton Heston's memoir "In the Arena."

One of the book's highlights is Heston's recollection of his work preparing for the chariot race in the film "Ben-Hur." Heston had gone to Rome several weeks before shooting in order to work on a practice race track. "I had to learn to drive the chariot," Heston recalled. "I'd long since realized the crucial importance of learning the physical skill you need for a part before the play goes into rehearsal or the film starts." Stuntman and second unit director Yakima Canutt was responsible for the orchestration of the chariot scene. He obtained more than 100 horses to make up the eight teams, with backups. Heston recalls training at least two hours a day for six weeks with the four teams of white horses Canutt had picked for him. "Over the weeks Yak made me into a modestly competent charioteer," Heston acknowledged, and yet he still fretted that his skills were not adequate to the scene. "Y'know, Yak, I feel pretty comfortable running this team now, but we're all alone here. We start shooting this sucker in ten days. I'm not so sure I can cut it with seven other teams out there." Heston finishes the story: "Yak looked at me and pushed his cap back on his head. 'Chuck, you just make sure y'stay in the chariot. I guarantee yuh gonna win the damn race.'"

Heston told this story when he came out to Minnesota to speak on behalf of Republican senate candidate Rod Grams in the fall of 1994. Heston advised Rod that he would win the race if he stayed in the chariot. (Grams stayed in the chariot and won.)

Watching from a distance as Brown campaigned against Martha Coakley over the closing days of the campaign, I thought of Heston's chariot story. The breadth and intensity of support evidenced for Brown at his rallies showed him to be the beneficiary of national forces carrying him to an improbable victory. □



Haitians must help shape their own future

By the Monitor's Editorial Board

Notice that US and other foreign officials visiting Haiti have bent over backward to say they are working with the government of this earthquake-shaken country – not controlling it.

"We are working to back them up, but not to supplant them," said US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton on her way to Haiti last Saturday.

The distinction is important for several reasons. History, for one. The US, despite its proximity, has had an uneasy and unsteady relationship with its Caribbean neighbor over the decades. Its record of intervention and assistance is mixed.

At the same time, Haiti's government, led by President René Préal, deserves international recognition of its legitimacy – even as a small core of government ministers, overwhelmed by the scale of destruction and its own losses, attempts to function from a police headquarters building near the damaged airport.

Most important, though, if Haiti is to turn from its pattern of extreme poverty and political upheaval, Haitians must help shape their own future. As tragic as the earthquake was, it also presents an opportunity to redirect and rebuild. Success is more likely if Haitians themselves have a stake in it.

The media are full of inspiring stories about individual initiative: people pulling others from rubble with their bare hands, assembling makeshift shelters, strategizing on how to bring back their businesses. But it is not too soon to think about Haiti's needs after the recovery-and-relief phase is over, and how to involve the Haitian government and people in rebuilding.

Admirably, that very thought process is already under way. Over the weekend, Mr. Préal met with international donors in the Dominican Republic, which borders Haiti. Dominican President Leonel Fernández suggested that a five-year, \$10-billion plan would be needed. Next week, foreign ministers – and the Haitian prime minister – will gather in Canada to discuss a rebuilding strategy. Then back to the Dominican Republic for more planning in April.

By virtue of the vast destruction, reconstruction will have to be vast in scope, covering everything from health and education to agriculture. As recently as the 1980s, Haitian farmers met nearly all of the country's rice needs. Now most rice is imported. Haitians can be put to work rebuilding infrastructure that withstands the next earthquake and the frequent hurricanes that blast the island.

It is encouraging to hear Préal, who has served in high posts in Haiti's government for nearly 20 years, say that Haiti must "reinforce the democratic institutions." Indeed, graft stains his government, and will be a key issue as Préal, donor nations, and nongovernmental groups look for ways to assure accountability without hampering speedy follow-through on aid. One hopeful sign is that before the earthquake, Préal strongly supported trials of security officials accused of human rights abuses, a first in Haiti.

Although foreign governments have shown respect and deference to the Haitian president and other government officials, not so the Haitian people, who complain bitterly that their government is nowhere to be seen in this crisis. The Préal administration must address this, and quickly.

"We are overwhelmed," Haitian Prime Minister Jean-Max Bellerive explained to The Washington Post. "We are not only ourselves victims of the disaster, but also do not have the capacity to do this on our own."

He is correct on one level, that the government is as overwhelmed as the population and needs help. Préal not only lost the presidential palace, but his private home.

Yet political leaders who accept the label of victim for themselves will find it hard to win the respect of citizens. Is it too much to ask of the Haitian president, as disadvantaged as he is, to visit the large refugee camp that has sprouted near the palace and encourage his fellow Haitians? So far, he has spoken mostly to the foreign media.

Haiti's people and its government need sizable and steady help from the international community. But they must also determine their own future. □

Presidente electo chileno comienza a delinear su gobierno

SANTIAGO DE CHILE (AP) - El presidente electo Sebastián Piñera comenzó a delinear las principales tareas que emprendería cuando asuma el 11 de marzo y a escoger a sus colaboradores ministeriales.

Piñera anunció que a comienzos de febrero anunciará los nombres de los ministros de su gabinete, entre los que no descartó que pudiera incluir a oficialistas. Dijo que el domingo viajará con su familia a descansar y a trabajar en su futuro gobierno a una de las dos residencias lacustres que posee en el sur del país.

Piñera se concentrará en su residencia a orillas del lago Ranco, a unos 1.000 kilómetros al sur, donde tendrá que elaborar las primeras medidas de su gobierno destinadas a cumplir sus promesas de campaña como el combate a la delincuencia y la creación de un millón de empleos, entre otras. Durante la campaña ofreció hacer un gobierno de unidad nacional que incluyera a figuras del saliente oficialismo, pero ahora flexibilizó y dijo que no está seguro que acepten su ofrecimiento.

“Digo ‘quizás’ porque hace unas semanas los nombres de algunas personas que creía reunían los requisitos de formación, de capacidad,



Sebastián Piñera, candidato presidencial opositor, saluda a sus simpatizantes durante su acto de cierre de campaña en Concepción, Chile, el jueves 14 de enero del 2010 (AP Foto/Ignacio Vásquez)

conocimientos para poder servir en un gobierno al servicio de Chile y antes de 24 horas, no sé si en forma voluntaria o presionados por el calor de la campaña, los cinco manifestaron que no estaban disponibles”, afirmó. Entre los nombres que sugirió como eventuales colaboradores figuran algunos ministros actuales. El futuro mandatario tiene entre sus facultades designar a 1.300 altos funcionarios, pero además durante la campaña aseguró que muchos empleados públicos tenían

sus días contados, aunque posteriormente suavizó la advertencia. Unos 80.000 funcionarios públicos pueden ser removidos por carecer de estabilidad laboral.

El senador ultraderechista Andrés Chadwick, primo del presidente electo, salió a tranquilizar este martes a los

empleados públicos a quienes Piñera criticó y les advirtió que podrían dejar sus cargos. Dijo que sólo aquellos que están cumpliendo más bien tareas proselitistas tienen que preocuparse. “Pero aquellos que están cumpliendo sus labores y lo han hecho bien, ningún temor y tranquilidad

absoluta”, dijo.

En los últimos dos días, ya como presidente electo, Piñera ha tenido que cumplir una serie de actividades protocolares al recibir saludos de diversas autoridades, entre ellas de los jefes de las fuerzas armadas, pero también se ha dado tiempo para compartir con diversos grupos sociales que le manifestaron este martes sus inquietudes.

La presidenta Michelle Bachelet, en tanto, encabezó un extenso consejo de gabinete con la totalidad de sus ministros para trazar las actividades de su gobierno antes que entregue el poder el 11 de marzo.

La vocera oficial, Pilar Armanet, informó que la mandataria continuará con su intensa actividad en terreno, pero que al mismo tiempo el jefe del gabinete ministerial, el ministro del Interior Edmundo Pérez, encabezará en febrero tras la designación de los colaboradores ministeriales del presidente electo un comité de coordinación para el traspaso ordenado del poder. □

Tercer sismo en tres días se registra en Argentina

BUENOS AIRES (AP) - Un sismo de magnitud 4,6 se sintió el martes en la cordillerana provincia de San Juan sin que se reportaran daños ni víctimas. Es el tercer movimiento sísmico que se registra en Argentina en apenas tres días.

El Servicio Geofísico de Estados Unidos (USGS según sus siglas en inglés), informó que el sismo se registró a las 2.36 local (05.36 GMT) y tuvo su epicentro a 120 kilómetros al oeste-noroeste de la capital de la vecina provincia de Mendoza --1.100 kilómetros al oeste de Buenos Aires--.

“No se han reportado daños ni víctimas como consecuencia de este evento”, informó por su parte en Instituto Nacional de Prevención Sísmica (Inpres) argentino.

El lunes, se produjo otro sismo de magnitud 5,5 en San Juan, un día después de que un temblor de magnitud 6,3 sacudió una zona del Océano Atlántico entre Tierra del Fuego y la Antártida. □

Suprema ordena detención de líder opositor boliviano

LA PAZ (AP) - Un tribunal de la Corte Suprema de Justicia ordenó la detención del principal rival del presidente Evo Morales en las elecciones de diciembre, el ex gobernador Manfred Reyes Villa, que se encuentra en Estados Unidos, se informó el martes oficialmente.

Reyes Villa no se presentó el lunes a declarar como testigo de cargo en un juicio de responsabilidades al ex presidente Gonzalo Sánchez de Lozada, informó el martes el presidente del Tribunal de Sentencia en ese proceso, Angel Irueta.

El ex candidato presidencial huyó del país hacia Estados Unidos tras los comicios generales ante lo que consideró una “persecución política” de parte del gobierno. Reyes Villa enfrenta varios procesos y tiene otras dos ordenes de detención por no comparecer ante cargos en su contra por

supuestas irregularidades administrativas cuando era gobernador de la región central de Cochabamba, cargo que ejerció hasta agosto de 2008.

Fue aliado político del ex presidente Gonzalo Sánchez de Lozada enjuiciado en ausencia por la muerte de 63 manifestantes durante las protestas sociales de octubre de 2003 que forzaron la renuncia de éste al gobierno. Desde entonces el ex mandatario vive en Estados Unidos y la justicia boliviana gestiona su extradición.

Varios líderes de la oposición conservadora tienen demandas judiciales y el que fuera candidato a la vicepresidencia en la fórmula de Reyes Villa, Leopoldo Fernández, está preso en un penal de La Paz por supuesta complicidad en la muerte de seguidores de Morales durante protestas antigubernamentales en septiembre de 2008. □

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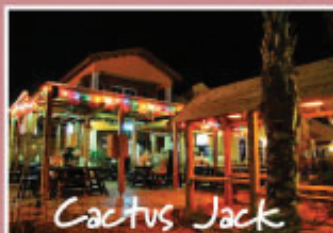


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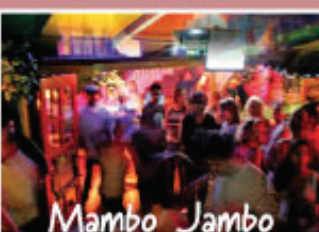
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